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A JOURNAL OF A RESIDENCE

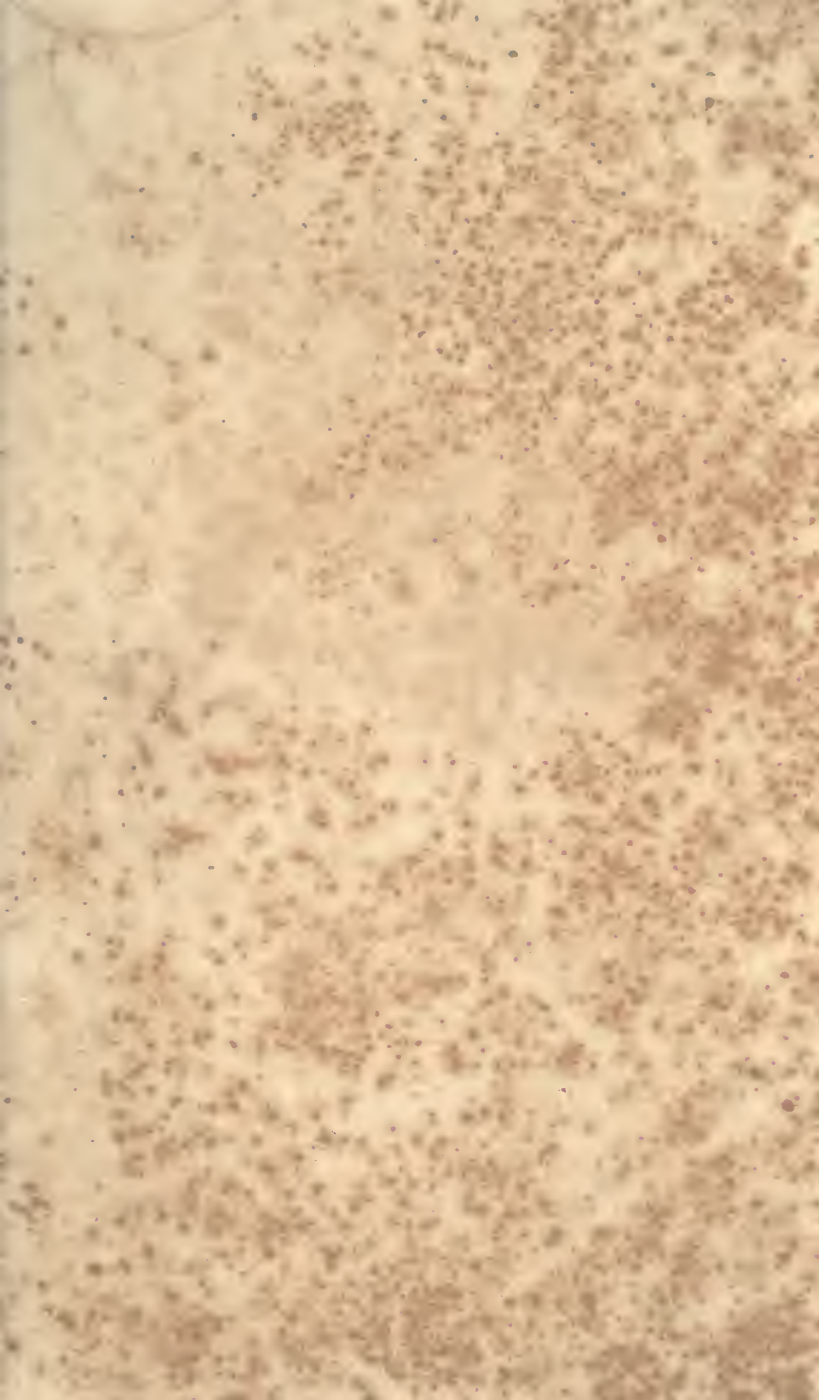
IN

THE ESMAILLA

OF

ABD-EL-KADER.

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HADGI ABD-EL-KADER BEN HEIDEEN,
Prince of the Faithful and Sultan of the Arabs.

A JOURNAL OF A RESIDENCE

IN

THE ESMAILLA

OF

ABD-EL-KADER:

AND OF

TRAVELS IN MOROCCO AND ALGIERS.

BY

COLONEL SCOTT, K.S.F. K.C.

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INTRODUCTION.

AT the period that the "Convenio of Vergara" took place, I was serving in the 18th Spanish Infantry, and in consequence of the articles of that treaty, by which the Carlist officers were incorporated into the regiments of Isabella II., it became impossible for any one who acted from principle, to remain under the command of those, who had supported the cause of despotism, and had in many instances been the inhuman and cold-blooded murderers of our friends and companions in arms.

From wounds received I passed the Medical Board as unfit for service in the Infantry, and although, according to the Spanish Articles of War, I was entitled to be passed to a cavalry regiment, yet I declined solely for the above reasons, as I should have been equally under the command of my former antagonists. I therefore retired from the service, with the full intention of proceeding to Tegedempt to join the Emir Abd-el-Kader, whose glorious resistance against the united power of the French nation, inspired me with admiration, at that time only considering him in the light of an Arab chief.

In pursuance of my resolution thus formed, I went to Madrid, and from thence was proceeding to Gibraltar, when the celebrated "Pronunciamiento" of September 1840 took place. I had at this period reached Benamehi in Andalusia, but after having so long defended the cause of liberty, I found this was not the time to desert my colours,

and consequently assisted Colonel Don José Poviano and General Mendez Vigo to the utmost of my abilities, and did not leave them until the present Regent of Spain, the brave Duke of La Vittoria, openly acknowledged the Junta of Madrid.

Continuing my journey I arrived at Algueciras, where I became acquainted with Mr. Mannucci, at that time *chargé d'affaires* to His Royal Highness the Emir Abd-el-Kader, and accepted the appointment of chief of the Emir's staff. On my arrival at the court of the Emir, I soon became so great an admirer of His Royal Highness's liberal policy, that I considered I should render him a far more important service by remaining at the Esmaila, and giving the world at large a correct account of the state of his country, than by being engaged at his side in active service; more especially as, had I acted openly in direct hostility against the French, I should then have become liable to the Act of Council prohibiting British subjects entering into

his service: but cautious feelings, as will hereafter be seen in these pages, gave way, with respect to the plan formed for the retaking of Mascara, which I conceived to be of the most material importance to His Royal Highness.

The French having disembarked troops in Turkish uniform at Mozaganem in October last, stating that they had come to the determination of giving up the whole of Algieria, excepting Algiers and Oran, to the Turkish government, and that the Allied Powers had appointed the son of the former Bey to the throne of his fathers, I advised His Royal Highness to submit his cause to the decision of those powers.

The whole of this *affaire* turned out to be another *ruse de guerre*, to beguile the Arabs from their allegiance to their lawful sovereign. Had the French nation acted up to the treaty of Taafna, concluded by the present Governor-General of Algiers with the Emir, they might have remained

in possession of the town of Algiers as well as the country ceded by that treaty, and then monopolized not only the trade of the Emir's territory, but also that of Tombuctoo, and the greater part of that of Morocco—no ! they broke their faith with a hero who knows but his word, and consequently from henceforth, he neither can, nor will he place any further confidence in them.

I must say that the late Ministry which was at the helm of the affairs of the British nation, showed but little judgment in not insisting upon France redeeming the guarantee which she gave on the taking of Algiers, and thus submitting its ultimate fate to the decision of a Congress of the Allied Powers, notwithstanding which His Royal Highness the Emir now insists that this Congress shall take place, and is even willing to submit the justice of his cause to their decision.

A most barbarous, unjustifiable, and inhuman warfare has been and still is carried on in Algiers,

the Emperor, and caused his regular infantry to join him by way of the desert ; he then re-crossed the Taafna and attacked the French last month, wisely allowing them first to encumber themselves with plunder, in order that their resistance might be less effectual. The French state their loss to be about fifty-three men and three officers killed ; but His Royal Highness makes the amount three hundred, besides having re-captured the whole of the booty they had taken.—This is the chief whom the French reported to have been abandoned by all, and who had become a refugee in Morocco. The French papers now state the intentions of their government to be, to attack Angiers and Mogador, to revenge what they term the treachery of Muley Abd-Herramann. Are they aware that the Emperor is bound, by the ties of his religion, to protect the Emir ? and that whatever excuses the Emperor (not being possessed of a martial spirit) may be induced to offer, in order to avoid an open

rupture with them, yet he would rather choose the latter alternative, than attempt any violence against or attach any blame whatever to the Emir, who is considered as the Champion of his religion; for under these circumstances he would be joined by the whole of Morocco against the Emperor, and the result would in all probability be a transfer of that sceptre to more martial hands.

I shall conclude this by advising the French—whom I admire as brave soldiers—to retire from the fields of Africa, there being but little glory to be gained, and no chance of a monument being erected to their memory, like that of the bridge of Jena; but most probably posterity may, at some future period, behold one like that of Gergi¹, in Tunis.

London, April 16th, 1842.

¹ A tower exists at Gergi, in Tunis, built of the skulls of the Spaniards who fell in the wars of Charles the Fifth.

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ON the 25th of February 1841, I left Gibraltar in the *Chasse-marée*, *Sacrée Famille*, and arrived at Tetaun on the morning of the 26th, my friend Mr. Noel Mannucci having reached this place some days prior to my arrival. The town of Tetaun is beautifully situated on a hill, distant from the shore about two miles, and its population may be estimated at about fifteen thousand, of whom four thousand are of the Jewish persuasion. The town, like most African ones, consists of houses one story high, some are, however, of two ; but all built with terrace roofs. The streets are narrow, about six feet

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in width, and dirty in the extreme. The houses of many of the rich Jews are fitted up with elegance, in the oriental style: with respect to the Mahomedan part of the city, being a Christian precluded me from an opportunity of visiting the interior of any of their dwellings. The Jews here, as in fact in all towns where the faith of Mahomet prevails, live in a separate part of the town, being considered and treated by the Moors as a race entirely beneath them. They have been allowed to continue in the countries inhabited by those professing the Mussulman faith, in consequence of an injunction made in the Koran, giving them protection, as a people who had submitted to the absolute dominion of their rulers, the lawgiver wisely imagining that their pacific habits would never endanger the Ottoman sway; the martial character of the Christians, however, caused their total exclusion from Africa; but that they were looked upon by Mahomet with respect, may be adduced from the circumstance, that any Christian who adopts the Ottoman faith is entitled to wear the green turban, and is considered as sheriff, that is of the same rank as those of the Prophet's family.

The principal trade carried on in Morocco and Arabia, is by the Jewish merchants, but they are

often made to transfer their wealth to the coffers of their despotic masters, the contributions imposed on them being exceedingly high ; and when any individual is considered as having accumulated considerable property, the authorities are extremely active in seeking some pretext to render themselves masters of it.

Amongst the Jewesses are many good looking girls, but what most attracted my attention in these ladies, was their gold embroidered tunics, and sashes of various colours, richly woven with gold threads, or silver, according to the rank and wealth of the wearer. I must not forget to mention their earrings ; one young lady, the daughter of the Jew who acts as French vice consul, had her ears decorated with a pair about the size of a quoit, and so weighty that she had to fasten them up with gold chains to the tiara. This is also an ornament which they pride themselves in having decorated with all kinds of precious stones, many thousand dollars are often expended on this peculiarly oriental and graceful head dress. Few wear stockings, but in lieu the lovely white ankle is surrounded by gold or silver anclets ; and the small foot is placed in a red Morocco slipper, which shows it off to the best advantage.

It was the 5th of March ere we could complete the arrangements required for our journey to Algiers, or rather to Tegedempt, the capital of the Emir's dominions. Our party consisted of Mr. Mannucci; a young gentleman of the name of Domingo Picardo, a native of Gibraltar, who went as Mr. M.'s secretary; a young Spanish lady named Madelena; and her sister, a young girl about eight years old. Madelena was tolerably good looking, but as the Spaniards say, *faltaba sal en el bautismo*, she had not much wit or grace. Mr. M. had brought her as a companion to his lady, who felt much the want of European society at the Esmailla, or residence of the Emir. Our servants consisted of a Spanish boy named Rafael, and a Brazilian black, on whom his godfathers and godmothers had bestowed the name of Candido; his open, frank nature did not belie the name bestowed on him. Two Moors going to Tlemecen, the one called Mahomet and the other Mousa, with a Jew of Tetaun named Garçon, completed our personal suite. A Capatras, or head muleteer, with eight men, and eighteen mules and horses, formed the caravan. Such a motley group of Christians, Moors, Jews and Arabs, afforded an amusing scene; French, Spanish, English and Arabic were alternately the medium of conversa-

tion; the confusion of Babel came present to mind. I must not forget a personage of no small importance in his own estimation, viz., an officer of the Emperor's service, named Abd-el-Cream, who accompanied us as a safeguard. A description of this personage will afford some amusement to those who have never had an opportunity of seeing the uniform of the Emperor of Morocco's troops. The individual himself was about five feet two inches in height, about fifty years old, and from the dilapidated state of his grinders, one would have been led to imagine that he had been masticating ship biscuit all his life, in lieu of koskouso; his face was weather beaten and wrinkled, and his form that of a bow. His dress, to commence from the feet upwards, consisted of a pair of yellow slippers, bare legs, a pair of wide blue trousers, brought in close below the knee, a white cotton shirt, in shape and make resembling a shift, the trousers and shirt being kept together by a red sash wound round the middle; over these came the haik, which is a fine woollen blanket, and is wrapped round the body, falling over the right shoulder, a white woollen cloak with a hood, and over all one of the same description, of superfine English blue cloth, completed his dress. The red high cap called "fez," is

that which is worn by all the troops. My worthy friend's arms consisted of a sword encased in a leather scabbard, which, like Hudibras's, for want of fighting appeared to have grown rusty, and slung round the neck by a worsted cord: he had also a long single barrelled Turkish gun, ornamented with ivory at the butt; this he took great pride in, and carefully kept in a blue cloth case.

We all put on Bernouses and red caps at the gates of Tetaun, in order not to be so much liable to the insults of the Moors; to whom the sight of a Christian in the interior was quite a novelty, none having been allowed to pass through this country for many hundred years, without having first embraced the Mahomedan faith; nor should I now have been enabled to do so, had it not been for the protection afforded by the Emperor's government to Mr. M., as ambassador from His Royal Highness the Emir. This circumstance also assured us in general a favourable reception from all *true believers*, the Emir being acknowledged universally as the defender of the faith, and the champion of the *Holy war* against the *kaffers* or infidels.

On leaving Tetaun many of the inhabitants came out to see us off; one old grey headed patriarch

approached us, and offered up a long prayer to God and Mahomet, for our prosperous journey to join the defender of his holy religion. In the afternoon we reached a small village called Hamsal, about a league and a half distant from Tetaun, where we remained for the night. On our arrival, the chief of the tribe came to pay his respects to us; he was a fine old man, his head was covered with the green turban, showing his claim to noble blood; he remained for some time in conversation with Mr. M. who is a perfect master of the Arabic language, and took his leave with many assurances of his friendship. We had just finished dinner when he again made his appearance, bringing in a large dish of koskouso¹ and stewed fowls, and a supply of bread, which had the appearance of pancakes, but a little thicker. Mr. M. according to the Arab custom put his hand into the dish, and helped himself to a wing; as in my travels to the South Seas, I had already been initiated into this way of eating, I followed his example, taking a leg,

¹ Koskouso, the usual food which the Arabs live on, is a paste of flour, made into small balls, about half the size of a grain of rice, and dried in the sun or over the fire; when required for use it is boiled with milk, or stewed with butter; either way it is a most palatable food.

and having torn a pancake in two with my hands, commenced a second dinner, to the great delight of the Arab chief.

Madelena and Domingo, who had never left their homes, and were entirely strangers to any but European customs, stared at us with astonishment; but we informed them that it was necessary here to follow the old proverb, "And when at Rome, to do as is done at Rome." In handing over the rum bottle, Domingo managed to spill some on the carpet near the Arab chief; at which my friend Mr. M. was much annoyed, suspecting that there was as the French say *anguille sous roche*. I asked him what hidden sin there could be in spilling a few drops of *agua ardiente*, when he informed me that, had it fallen on any part of the Arab's dress, he could not have worn it again until it had been washed, as such was the Mahomedan law. I could not help remarking at the time, that although it was so heinous a sin to spill spirits on their garments, many of them had no objection to a drop on the sly; one scamp, I forgot to mention, a renegade Jew, whom Mr. M. brought with him, had a particular affection for the rosy God: this fellow, who on embracing the Mussulman faith had taken the name of Mahomet, would at

any time he could get it, indulge in spirituous liquors to the greatest extent.

We left Hamsal early on the morning of the 6th, and passing Zib-el-Felit, or the holy mountain, we remained in the valley of that name for the night. The only thing worthy of notice in this day's journey was the having passed the tomb of Zummara-el-Asara, the mother of Mahomet. It will doubtless be imagined that some elegant or sumptuous mausoleum marks the spot where the ashes repose of her who brought into the world him, whom all acknowledge to have been one of the greatest lawgivers, since one-fourth of the known population of the world have adopted his tenets; but this is not the case, a large yew-tree surrounded by a stone wall about four feet high alone marks this interesting and memorable spot—which is considered so sacred, that the Jews on their way to and from Fez are obliged to make a circuit of near a mile, in order that they may not profane this holy ground.

On the morning of the 7th we left this valley and encamped at a place called Benigafit. The fanaticism of our Arab muleteers amused me not a little; they considered it a sin to touch one of us, and the only ones who would even give us the least

assistance in mounting our horses were the two Arabs going to Tlemecen. The most comfortable way of travelling the long stages here, is that generally adopted by those who go with the caravans ; two boxes or bales being placed one on either side of the mule or horse, a bed, or a sufficient number of carpets are laid across to form an easy seat. Frequently on the journey, when tired, Mr. M. and myself dismounted our horses, availing ourselves of this mode of conveyance. The Arab who came with my horse refused to help me up on one of the baggage mules ; however, I brought him a little to his senses in the course of the day. I had got rather a-head of the caravan when my impudent guide thought proper to stop my horse : this was taking rather too great a liberty, I therefore gave him two smart blows with the butt-end of my fowling-piece over the shoulders, on receiving which he lifted his stick ; I immediately cocked my gun, but Mr. M. who now came up said some words in Arabic to the fellow, on which he assumed a less hostile position. A long discussion now took place which I did not understand ; however, from thenceforward they treated me with more respect, although, without doubt, in their hearts they were cursing me for a kilb, or a dog of a Christian.

In the evening we reached a few huts about a league from the small town of Alcasar ; here we remained for the night, and early on the morning of the 8th, we passed the town, going through the burying-ground of the Moors, which is situated immediately outside the walls: this not a little surprised the Jews who accompanied us, as they are obliged to take a circuitous route to avoid going through this sacred ground, or, in fact, where any Santo or holy person has been buried ; they are not allowed even here to enter the town with their shoes on, and as to a Christian entering, that is out of the question, unless you should feel any inclination to have all the rabble in the place at your heels, or perhaps to become a candidate for the honours of St. Stephen's fate.

We passed the river Alcasar, which runs close to the south east side of the town, emptying itself into the sea at the town of El Araiche ; the latter town is situated sixty miles from Tangiers, on the west coast of Morocco. Having to send to the town for provisions, we remained at a few huts about a mile from the town ; the pompous name of Salah de Muley Ismael, by which this spot was designated, would have induced us to suppose that some splendid palace would have been our resting-

place ; this village, however, is indebted for its high-sounding appellation, merely to the circumstance of the Emperor Muley Ismael having usually pitched his tents here, when travelling from Fez to Tangiers or Tetaun. The town of Alcasar, from its extent, I should judge to contain about 5,000 inhabitants, from four to five hundred of whom are of the Jewish persuasion : a Saint or Marabout is interred here, whose fame is known through the whole of Morocco, he is called Sidi el Bugali.

We reached the small Arab village of Chemegah on the 10th, having passed the remains of an old Roman town to the left, which our Capatras informed us still contained about 2,000 inhabitants, but formerly, from the extent of the ruins, it must have been a town of considerable importance.

On the 11th we reached Rerdad, a village consisting of about one hundred Arab tents. A circumstance occurred here which will serve to give the traveller an idea of what he may expect, should he attempt to travel through this barbarous country without the highest protection. Domingo had accompanied me to the neighbouring stream in order to have a bathe ; Mr. Mannucci was lying in his tent, the fair Madelena being seated near him, when one of the Arabs came up, and looking in at the

door, which was open, said to one of his comrades, "Look at the dog of a Christian, how coolly he is taking it with his wife." My friend, whom I have stated to be perfectly acquainted with the Arab language, immediately got up and gave him a box on the ear, this the Arab returned by a blow with a stick which he happened to have in his hand: Rafael, who saw his master struck, immediately drew forth his bayonet and wounded the Arab in three places, and would very soon have dispatched him *à l'Español*, had not the by-standers separated them, taking the Arab into custody. The officer put him in irons, and informed the tribe that unless Mr. M. released him, he should be under the necessity of conveying him as a prisoner to Fez to be dealt with according to the Emperor's pleasure. Shortly after, all the friends of the prisoner came, bringing with them presents of fowls, eggs, &c., praying that he might not be forwarded to Fez, alleging that the insult he had offered had been given inadvertently, as had he been aware of who we were, he would not have done so. We did not take their presents, but released him in the evening, having previously caused him to be punished by orders of Abd-el-Cream with some fifty bastinadoes

on the soles of the feet, the usual method of punishing in this country.

Leaving Rerdad on the morning of the 12th, we reached the village of Worga, situated on the banks of the river of that name, in the afternoon. The Worga joins the river of Alcasar near El Araiche. It is a considerable stream, being at the time we crossed it upwards of a hundred yards wide; in heavy rains, however, it is frequently impassable, being then upwards of five hundred in width, and running with a very strong current.

The village of Worga is composed of tents, but is always stationary, not belonging to the wandering tribes. The principal mountains here run north-east and south-west. On the 13th, about noon, we reached Charagah, a neat little town, the houses being built of stone, and thatched; it is situated on a hill, at the foot of which are two beautiful fountains in a recess of the rock; numerous river turtle are continually sporting in the basins which have been formed by the streams. These animals are extremely numerous in all the rivers; land turtle are also abundant, many of the latter of a peculiarly small sort, and which make elegant snuff-boxes. A variety of the spoon-bill are fre-

quently to be seen, and so tame that they will allow you to approach quite close to them; they are considered by the natives as sacred, and consequently are never disturbed. I wished to shoot one for the quills, but was advised not to do so, as it would be offending against the prejudices of the Arabs. During our stay here the Arabs amused themselves every afternoon at ball practice; their manner of shooting is a little curious; at the distance of about twenty yards, they placed ten stones in a line, about a foot distance from each other, and having joined in prayer to God and Mahomet to bless their aim in hitting those stones, as it was their wish that in like manner they might be enabled to hit the hearts of all unbelievers in their holy faith, each of them then fired in his turn. How edifying this prayer appeared to us, when translated, may be imagined.

On the 15th the secretary of Hadgi Taleb arrived with instructions for us to proceed to Taasa, and that all supplies we required, as also fresh horses, should be sent us there in order to continue our journey to Tlemecen; he brought us a supply of provisions, consisting of koskouso, figs, dates, and raisins, and also a basket of green dates of the first quality, as a present to Madelena,

showing that gallantry to the fair sex is observed even here. We mounted two sentries every night during our stay here, robbers being extremely numerous; some of them came to feel their way, but finding we were prepared for them, they did not attempt to make any attack upon us.

At six A.M. on the morning of the 17th we left Charagah; the country continued the same as that we had hitherto passed through, beautifully undulating, hill and valley, capable in general of cultivation, but the whole affording the finest grazing land. I have travelled through France, Spain, and Portugal, and the greater part of South America, and Australia, and in none of these places have I beheld so rich and fertile a country as that which I went through from Tetaun to Fez. It is only to be regretted that the inhabitants of it should be sunk into such a state of barbarism, that they are little superior to a New Zealander. We passed many small rivulets, but most of them brackish, and several large villages of Arab tents. A deputation was sent from one of them, headed by their Kaid or Mayor; he came up to Mr. M., and having asked him if he was not the ambassador from the Emir, on his reply in the affirmative, they begged his acceptance of

about forty dollars, as a contribution to the expenses of the holy war. A long prayer was now offered up by them for the extermination of the French invaders, and also to Mahomet that he would induce their imperial master to join his forces to those of the Emir in the just cause, expressing their desire to become candidates for the honour of dying *mouchaied* or champions in defence of their religion ; those who have the *good fortune* to be killed in action being immediately translated to paradise, whilst their memory is revered on earth as Saints. We passed the tomb of another of these worthies to-day, but they had now become so numerous that I forgot to inquire his name. We also saw the hermitage of one of their Marabouts at some distance to the left of the road. They are generally built of stone, and the site which they almost universally select for their residence is on the top of a mountain or high hill. We reached Cobur-el-Abd in the evening.

On the morning of the 17th, leaving this place, we proceeded through some extensive plains; about ten A.M. we perceived a troop of Arabs winding down a hill to our left, taking a direction to cross the road in front of us. We immediately

suspected them to be some of the lawless robbers who infest this neighbourhood. The tribes from Fez to the frontiers of Algiers are under little restraint or subjection to the Emperor, frequently attacking the caravans, robbing and murdering with impunity. Mr. M. and myself immediately looked at our priming, and I did not feel much anxiety as to the probable result of our encounter, should we come to an engagement with them; twelve of our party being well armed, and the number of the Arabs did not exceed that amount. Mr. M. begged I would take no notice of them unless they actually commenced hostilities against us, when he rode to the front with the officer to reconnoitre them; fortunately, however, we had the pleasure to find they were friends, being a party of the Emperor's cavalry who were escorting a prisoner to Fez. We now halted at a small rivulet, and breakfasted together; the soldiers could hardly give credit to their eyes, that they actually saw Christians in this part of the country.

I was surprised to see a mountain at some distance, the side of which was perfectly white, whilst its summit was grey, imagining it to be snow; but my surprise was increased on finding that this

phenomenon was caused by salt, this mountain being principally mines of rock salt, bare on the surface in some places to the extent of two or three hundred yards. We also passed a large river called the Milky River, which almost always runs with the force of a mountain torrent ; it was now, at its lowest ebb, about twelve yards wide, but it was as much as the horses could do to stem the current. This river flows into the river Rio Salada, the most considerable on the east coast of Morocco, about sixty miles from the Spanish town of Melillah. On a hill close to the river we passed several heaps of stones, denoting the graves, as our Capatras informed us, of those who had fallen in action with the robbers ; the practice of raising these memento-mori prevails also in Spain, particularly in Andalusia, the customs of whose inhabitants still retain many traces of their ancient masters, the Moors. Many of the Andalusian families are descended from the Moors who turned Christians to avoid being expelled the kingdom by the edict of San Fernando, when upwards of eighty thousand were compelled to return to Barbary. On the east coast towards Tunis are still preserved the keys of their ancestors' houses in Spain, to which country they still express the hopes of one

day returning, and again planting the crescent on the ancient walls of the Alhambra, the last of the splendid seats of Moorish regal sway in Spain, and which still exists in a perfect state of preservation.

The country now assumed a more mountainous appearance, the chains of which ran east and west. Some few fertile glens appeared now and then, but the hills are generally bleak and barren, affording a striking contrast to the beautiful line of country which we had come through from Tetaun to Fez. We slept at a few huts, the inhabitants of which were extremely friendly, bringing us stewed fowls and koskouso prepared in various ways. We all dined so heartily of the dinner prepared by our Arab hosts, that our own, which was in the European style, left the table untouched.

Mr. M. purchased a fine grey charger here, one that in England would have cost upwards of a hundred pounds, for the comparatively small sum of sixty dollars. All sorts of the necessaries of life are to be had here on the most reasonable terms; a good bullock of from five to six hundred weight costs from five to six dollars; a sheep one and a-half; whilst fowls are to be had at about fourpence sterling each.

On the 18th we passed the night at a place called Embuhl, one day's journey distant from Taasa. This was not a particularly pleasant quarter, as a short time before we stopped, a party who had remained here for the night, and who were proceeding to Tlemecen with arms for the service of the Emir, were attacked; two of the party were killed, and the robbers succeeded in carrying off two mules laden with muskets. Here, as in fact every other night since we reached Charagah, we were furnished with a guard by the tribe where we slept; but in addition to these, three of our own party were constantly mounted as an inner guard over the tents, and Mr. M. and myself acted as officers of the watch, relieving each other at twelve o'clock at night. Our Capatras had a narrow escape this morning; he had gone away from the tents in search of a mule which had broken loose; he had not been observed to leave, but on his return, Candido, who was on sentry, seeing him approach, challenged him in Spanish, which as the Arab did not understand, he took no notice of, but continued drawing near to the camp. Candido, anxious to show his zeal in the service, had levelled his piece; a few seconds more, and the muleteer would have received the contents of it. Having

heard the challenge given, I just came out in time to recognize the muleteer, and stop blackee from proving that he was determined to stand by his colours in case of need.

CHAPTER II.

Arrival at Taasa—Description of the town—Anecdote of Zuleika and Sabia—Plan formed by the robbers to attack us on leaving Taasa—Three deserters from the Emir's service apprehended and sent to Fez—Treatment of renegades in the Emperor's dominions—Insult offered me by a Reece chief, and the manner in which this affair was settled.

WE quitted Embuhl on the morning of the 19th, proceeding on our road to Taasa, to await the supplies which Hadgi Taleb had promised to send us ; and also Mr. Samuel Ebensur, who had remained at Tetaun to bring up a supply of muskets for H. R. Highness. The country continued the same as that we had passed through for the last few days. We saw several more mines of rock salt. At about eleven o'clock it commenced raining pretty heavily ;—notwithstanding we were wet through, it not in the least affected our appetites : we accordingly halted on coming to the river Taasa, which joins the Seboo above Fez, and each taking a small loaf and a piece of potted meat, which we had prepared in Tetaun, we made a soldier's breakfast. Our *aqua ardiente* was out, we

consequently had to content ourselves with the limpid stream ; which, although as clear as crystal, and beautifully cool, I would willingly have exchanged for a good glass of French brandy. Hastily concluding our frugal meal, we mounted our horses, and proceeded on our journey. At two o'clock in the afternoon we first discovered the town of Taasa, from a high mountain about two leagues from that place. It is most romantically situated on a hill, which gradually descends into the valley from the high mountains situated to the south-east. A wide ravine comes down on either side of the hill on which the town is built, giving it the appearance, at a distance, of an island. Beautiful gardens and orchards surround the foot of the hill, consisting of orange-trees, &c. ; that belonging to the Kaid, or Governor, is the finest. Here he has a small *maison de campagne*, where he generally passes the afternoons,—smoking, taking coffee, and sometimes amusing himself with looking at the soldiers performing their evolutions on the plain below.

About four P.M. we reached the town, which in ancient times, when in possession of the Romans, must have been a place of considerable importance. At the foot of the hill still exists the outer line of fortifications, consisting of a wall about three feet

thick and ten feet high, with square towers placed at about eighty yards from each other. The wall in many places is still entire, but the towers are mostly in a dilapidated state. About half way up the hill are a wall and towers similar to the first, but in a much more ruinous condition. The town is surrounded by a third wall. On the north side are visible the ruins of what must have been the ancient capitol, or citadel. As the town, however, was since that period, and continued in possession of the Christians many years, to them were owing, I should imagine, the destruction of this fort, the site of which, being immediately outside the present walls of the town, was used as a burying-ground for those of this persuasion. I endeavoured, one day, to see if I could find an inscription on any of the stones, which might give me an insight as to the time this town fell into the hands of its present masters, but without success. The principal Mosque was evidently in former times a place of Christian worship; the tower and the belfry exist: the latter is now used as the minaret, from whence resounds the "Allah! Achbar," which calls the Moslem to prayers. How often has this sound broken on my ears through the stillness of the night, as the call to prayers was made at one in the morning!

Very good powder is manufactured here, the secret of which they say has been transmitted to them from the time of the Christians. Mines of sulphur and saltpetre are found in the neighbourhood; but the former are not worked, in consequence of their having no person who is acquainted with the manner of purifying it from the earth, &c. with which it is mixed.

I am unfortunately not an antiquary; but as during my travels through this part, I did not either pass the ruins of Pharaoh, or even hear that any such ruins existed, I imagine that Taasa is the actual site of this town. I leave this to the antiquary: let him decide the point. Neither does there exist any town of Teja; but Pharaoh and Teja appear to be one and the same. I should fix the site of it in about 36° north and 3° west of Greenwich. To return from the digression which I have made.

On our approaching the town, the officer preceded us with letters from the Emperor to the Governor, by which he was ordered to afford us every assistance: furnishing every thing we required, at government expense. Abd-el-Cream met us at the gate, bringing with him the two Sheiks of the Jews. They took us to a house

which, for filth and dirtiness, might well be compared to a pig-sty ; the consequence was, that a box on the ear, which my friend Mr. M. administered to the Israelite, had the effect of making him take us to more commodious lodgings. Although the house they now procured for us was nothing of the most elegant, still, it was much superior to the first they had purposed allotting to us, and was the best to be had in the town ; we soon installed ourselves *vi et armis* into two of the best rooms on the second story, turning out the family of our *host* into the worst of the three rooms, of which his house consisted.

The first day of our arrival, the Sheiks, who had been ordered by the Governor to furnish us with every thing we required, brought us a pretty fair supper, and also breakfast the next morning ; but there was a sad falling off in the dinner which they furnished on the second day. We put up with this for the night, in order not to go to bed supperless ; but sent them word in the morning, that if they made their appearance again with a similar one, they would have the pleasure of being thrown over the balcony. We purchased such provisions as we required for the day, in the market, at the same time wrote to the Governor that we

would inform Hadgi Taleb of the neglect which had been shown us, and the little attention paid to the imperial orders. This had the desired effect; as the Kaid, being aware that a complaint of this nature would not only endanger his situation, but most probably he would also have to pay a considerable fine, sent his secretary to beg that this step might not be taken, and requesting that, to avoid any complaint in future, we would send every morning a note of what we wished for, and it should be attended to; and if the Jews failed in doing so, to inform him of the circumstance, when he would take such steps with them as to prevent any future failure on their part. Henceforward every thing was sent us in abundance: fowls, eggs, mutton, *agua ardiente* (which is made by the Jews from raisins and figs), and even tobacco, were supplied gratis. We had still to mount a guard of our own party here every night, notwithstanding the Governor furnished us with six soldiers,—even they were not to be placed much dependence on. A few weeks before, the house we lived in had been robbed; in fact, the greater part of Morocco and Fez are unsafe, owing to the mistaken policy of the present Emperor, who seldom punishes with death—this having led to the natural

consequence, that his authority is set at nought. Robbers abound, knowing that if they are caught in the fact, the only penalty they will incur will be a fine proportionate to the property they may be known to possess ; consequently many escape any punishment whatever, the Mahomedan law being something similar to the English in one point, viz., that where there is nothing the King loses his rights.

It is generally next to impossible to behold the features of the fair sex in this part of the world ; that, however, there is no rule without exception, will be seen from the following circumstance and amusing incident, which took place shortly after our arrival here. The terraces are the same as those in most parts of the East, the communication from one to another being attended with little difficulty. Being looked upon as lions, we could not go up to the terrace without having the adjoining ones lined with Moorish and Jewish girls to have a glimpse of us. Amongst them were two sisters, Zuleika and Sabia ;—the elder, Zuleika, had beautiful blue eyes, and a Grecian style of countenance : Sabia was round-faced, black-eyed, with a laughing devil playing in them. Both of these might be deemed worthy of a place amongst the Houris. Although the Moorish dress is not

calculated to show off the charms of the fair sex to the best advantage, yet, through the folds of their drapery, it could be seen that their forms were equal to their features. A pair of bright eyes have always something in them which attracts the attention, be they owned by Moor, Jewish, or Christian fair,—I always feel a penchant that way. Some mornings were passed making love in dumb show. Domingo and I made signs for them to come over to our terrace, not in the least imagining there was any chance of their doing so. As our ill stars would have it, about eight o'clock at night the Moorish soldiers, hearing footsteps on the terrace, alarmed the house with a cry of robbers. Lanterns were immediately procured, and our host soon mounted the terrace in martial array; nothing was to be seen, and most were fully convinced that the footsteps which had been heard were those of robbers. I had, however, some suspicion that there was a possibility of its being our fair friends, and my suspicion turned out to be well founded. Hadgi Mahomet, who spoke a little Spanish, and had taken a great fancy to me, soon informed me that such was the case, and that her husband (Zuleika's) had also some suspicion of it, as he had accused her before the Cadi of having been seen speaking to

a Christian, she was condemned to be locked up on bread and water for a week. We saw no more of her or Sabia during our residence here.

The Jewesses were many of them extremely pretty; but we could not hold much communication with them, they speaking only the Hebrew and Arabic languages: both of these Domingo and I were entirely ignorant of. Mr. Mannucci was the only European in our party who could converse with these fair dames. What struck me particularly in the dress of these damsels was, the way of wearing their ear-rings. In lieu of wearing them in the bottom of their ears, as they are usually worn, they have them in the top; and being of very large dimensions, their ears fall down like those of an ass when tired. Although this is considered here, as the height of *bon ton*, to me, I must say, it gave any thing but additional charms to the fair wearers.

On the 24th we commenced making preparations for leaving Taasa, expecting that Mr. Samuel Ebensur would arrive in a few days with the anticipated supplies and articles which he had been directed to purchase in Fez. In consequence of information we received, that on our leaving this place, a plan had been formed by

by the Reeffe tribes (robbers of the west coast) to plunder us; an idea they had formed, in consequence of a report which had obtained circulation among them, that we had twenty-six thousand dollars with us; the governor did not conceive us safe even within the town, and our guard was increased by him to twelve men; these added to our own, made eighteen: but our six might be considered as equal to the other twelve, as half of this number generally came unarmed, and those who brought fire-arms with them, had them generally more for shew than use,—few of them being fit for service.

Under these circumstances, it was deemed more prudent to remain here till an escort of cavalry could be obtained from Fez to accompany us into the Emir's territory, where we could, if necessary, have the assistance of our own troops. We immediately sent an especial courier to Hadgi Taleb Bencheluhl, the prime minister, begging that the escort which we required might be sent as soon as possible.

On the morning of the 26th, a caravan arrived from Tlemecen; amongst those who came with it were two French renegades, and one Spanish, deserters from the Emir's service. The two

Frenchmen stated that they escaped from Oran, to which place they had been transported to hard labour. The Spaniard confessed that he was a deserter from the Spanish Legion in the French service, and that he was also a deserter from the regiment of Zamora, or 8th Spanish Infantry. From this corps he had deserted to the ranks of the infamous Cabrera. On the latter escaping from Spain, he had accompanied him to France, where he had entered the Foreign Legion. He was thus, according to his own account, a deserter from two services. There being, however, no doubt that they had at present escaped from the service of the Emir, we had them taken up and sent to Fez, to be dealt with according to the Emperor's pleasure ; where, in all probability, they would lose their heads. Let not the reader accuse me of want of veracity when I state, that so little value is placed upon a renegade's life here, that the unfortunate Spaniards who escape from Ceuta, or Melilah, are sold by the chiefs into whose hands they fall, for from three to four dollars each. Those who have the good fortune—if such it may be called—to reach Fez, are made to enter the body-guard of the Emperor, which consists of about six thousand French and Spanish renegades ; or they are sent

to Ligouri, a town situated about sixteen leagues to the south of Fez. They are formed into regiments, and officers are selected from the most intelligent amongst them; here, they are given ground, furnished with wives, and paid at the rate of three dollars per month. They are considered as a sort of soldier-peasants, being obliged to serve the Emperor whenever called upon,—something on the plan of the Russian military villages,—which is never the case, unless the Emperor himself takes the field.

The Jew in whose house we were lodged was a silversmith; he informed me that another of his trade, an Arab belonging to the town, had three Spaniards in his employ, having purchased them at three, seven, and ten dollars respectively. Jews are not allowed to hold slaves, which appeared to be the cause of much regret to our host, who no doubt would most willingly have procured some apprentices at the above specified prices. Black slaves here are extremely numerous, their price varies according to their sex and age,—from thirty to eighty dollars; a good looking female has been known to cost one hundred dollars; but this is the highest price I have heard of having been given. A handsome white female will bring

as high as three hundred dollars, but if they are of a *certain age*, as Byron terms it, or not good-looking, they are then considered as of no more value than a black slave.

Since our arrival here, we always placed Rafael or Candido at the door of our suite of apartments, in order to keep out all intruders, and these worthies showed little consideration to those who came under their hands for attempting to shove their way in without leave. This was frequently attempted by the Moors, in order to gratify their curiosity with a look at the *lions*. On the 28th of March, Rafael being on sentry, some five or six of them came up stairs, and endeavoured to force their way in; Rafael maintained his post, and shoved them down stairs again; on reaching the court-yard one of them looked up at me (I was leaning over the verandah), and spitting at me, called me, a dog of a Christian. I did not at the time understand the words which he had made use of, but the action of spitting at me was quite sufficient to rouse the blood of an Englishman. I went into the room for a stick, intending to have given him the chastisement his insolence deserved. His ill stars had so destined it that no stick was to be found, and

my sword was the first thing that came to hand. I had had it ground, and had amused myself by putting an edge on it that would almost do to shave with. Rafael had followed them down stairs, and was now engaged in a scuffle with one of them, a chief of Reepe; the Moors began to draw their knives, and not wishing to inflict any serious injury on any of them, I commenced by using the flat of my sword on the one who was engaged with Rafael. This worthy, who doubtless imagined that my sword was not quite so sharp, seized and endeavoured to wrest it from my hands. The affair now began to assume really something serious; if the scoundrel had succeeded in getting my sword from me, I should most probably have been saved the trouble of writing this account of the affair. I now commenced in earnest, and drawing the sword sharply through his hand, left three fingers half cut off, at the same time giving him the first point; I wounded him slightly in the right side. They now made a precipitate retreat to the outer door, leaving me and Rafael in possession of the field of battle, and one of their long knives, which they let drop in their hasty flight. The Jews of the house were in utter astonishment at seeing a Moor struck by a Christian, and not much less

to see the indifference with which I treated the affair. They said, by the God of Abraham the Moors of the town would attack the house, and we should all be made mince-meat of. To quiet their fears, and to avoid further trouble, or any unpleasant consequences which might arise out of this affair, Mr. M. wrote to the Governor, stating that some Arabs having attempted to force their way into the house, and drawn their knives upon one of his Christian servants, an Arab had been wounded by me, and begged that the whole of them might be chastised for their conduct, and also give orders that none should come to the house unless on business, as otherwise something more serious would probably occur. The Governor was amusing himself in his garden when Mousa, who was the bearer of the note, went to him, and having the good fortune to find him in a particularly merry humour, he made Mousa sit down and take a cup of coffee, inquiring of him the particulars of the case. Of course the version was given entirely in my favour; whilst Mousa was there, my Arab antagonist made his appearance with his mutilated hand; the wound had been much more serious than I imagined. About forty more Arabs accompanied him, to beg

that I should forfeit my hand for thus mutilating a Mussulman: but having had the first complaint against him, the Governor told him, that had he not been so seriously hurt he would have punished him, but as it was, to take himself off, and that in future it would serve as a lesson not to go near the Christians; that nobody had sent him there, and consequently what he had received was no more than he deserved. By a *ruse de guerre* this unpleasant business was got rid of for the present; however, my Arab friend was not content with the decision, but went to Fez to complain to the Emperor; Hadgi Taleb, however, gave him a similar answer to that which he had received from the Governor, and my right hand for this time escaped from the dangerous predicament in which it had placed itself.

CHAPTER III.

An Arab riot—Officers of the B. A. L.—Duties on exportation from Morocco, and monopolies of the Government—General Bugeaud assumes the command in Algiers—Attack of the robbers—Accident which befel Candido—Summons to arms of the faithful—Jewish Passover—Method of adorning the hands used by the ladies—Prospects of the African army—Heroes of Mazagran.

IN addition to my Arab friend mentioned in the last chapter, an unfortunate Israelite had the misfortune to come under Mr. M.'s displeasure, for having unguardedly said, that the reason we had not entered Fez, was because we were not allowed to do so. This unguarded expression cost him a hundred bastinadoes on the soles of the feet, and gaol fees, being imprisoned for some days, in order that he might rest his feet. This punishment was inflicted by order of the Governor. We had also all the Jewesses in the house in tears in the evening, for the fate of a youngster about four-

teen, a nephew of the owner of the premises. We always barred the doors at eight o'clock, and no one was allowed to be admitted after that hour, unless leave had first been obtained from the Governor of the castle, Mr. M. The young Jew allowed an Arab to enter on pretence that he came to see some of the Jews; this, however, was no excuse; a breach of all military discipline had been committed; the delinquent was immediately brought up, and *via* summary jurisdiction, sentenced to receive fifty. The sentence was consequently executed on the spot. Hadgi Mohamet and Mousa, perfect adepts at the art of *hamlooming*, as tying the feet is termed, had him on his back in an instant, with his feet in the air; and a fine orange stick, with which one of the soldiers administered the *quantum* prescribed, made the youngster call out *Aima*, mother, in splendid style, to the great amusement of the Arabs, who kept exclaiming Kilb el Judi, or dog of a Jew.

Twenty-ninth.—To-day was market-day. At about twelve o'clock the Jews of the house came in with fear depicted in their countenances, and informed us that there was a revolution in the town, and that it was on our account. We immediately went up to the terrace, and to tell the

truth I did not much like the aspect of affairs, two or three thousand Arabs were running to and fro, on the open space where the ancient citadel had been situated, and which now served as the market-place. The gates of the town, which we could see from hence, had been closed, and all the indications of a serious tumult were evident. We immediately disposed of our small force in the most advantageous manner for the defence of our *castle*, and I remained on the terrace to observe the movements of the mob. We placed two at the gate of the outer yard, and two at the inner, whilst three remained as a *corps de reserve* in the verandah of our apartments. I now took the advanced post with Mousa at the outer gate. About an hour after, things having assumed a more peaceable aspect, we sent out Hadgi Mohamet to procure information as to what had taken place; he soon returned with the intelligence that we were not in any way the cause of the disturbance, which had only arisen from a Bedouin (or an Arab belonging to one of the wandering tribes) having run his creece (or dagger) through another, whom he had killed on the spot; that the gate had been shut to see if they could apprehend the murderer, but he escaped to the mountains. I enquired

whether steps would not be taken to apprehend the Bedouin, but was answered, that in such cases, which were of frequent occurrence, when the delinquent had the good fortune to escape at the moment, he was perfectly safe, unless from the private revenge of the family to whom the victim belonged. This will serve to give some idea of the security of human life in the Emperor's dominions.

On the 31st the courier who had been dispatched to Fez returned, bringing letters from the Emperor to the Governor of Taasa to furnish us with as many cavalry as might be deemed sufficient to protect us to the camp of Busean. The lieutenant-general who commands from Taasa to the frontiers of Algiers, and whose camp was situated on the road from hence to Tlemecen; to him orders were issued to relieve the troops which were about to be sent, and furnish us with those which he might deem necessary till they reached the frontier, where they would be relieved by an escort of the Emir's troops, should Bouhamidi (Bey of Tlemecen) think it requisite. We also received the satisfactory intelligence that four of my old brother officers in the B. A. L. had entered the Emir's service, and had left Gibraltar for Tetaun, with the

hopes of joining us at Taasa. I was much pleased with the prospect of their arrival, one of them being an excellent artillery officer, and whose services would have been of the greatest importance to the Emir. I had had frequent opportunities of seeing his skill displayed in the field of action against the Carlists, and although the enemy now to be contended with, were much superior to those of *Carlos quinto*, still with the Arabs they had, and have to contend with, a courage equal to their own, rendered desperate by a fanaticism which can only be formed an idea of, by those who have had an opportunity of being an eye-witness to its extent ; many come from the interior with the sole intention of dying in the field of battle, and thus gaining the paradise which Mahomet has painted to them under such fascinating colours.

The officers in question were, however, not able to reach the Emir's territory, in consequence of the French government having positively stated to the Emperor of Morocco, that if they were allowed to pass into the interior, war would be declared against the Emperor : my friends were *soldiers* and not lawyers, otherwise they could have claimed passports, even from the British Government, to *Fez*, as an allied power, and from thence they could

have proceeded to Tombuctoo if they thought proper to run the risk ;—danger, however, was not what deterred them, but a want of knowledge of the laws of their country, and the privileges of a British subject, who is not bound to give an answer to the questions which may be put to him as to his business. When they had reached the Emir's territory, then, let the respective governments have settled matters between them as to whether they had come with the consent of the British Government or not.

The 1st of March we dispatched two couriers, one to Hadgi Taleb, begging that he would hasten the departure of Ebensur, and the other to his Royal Highness, and also with letters to Ben Nonan the Governor of Tlemecen, in order that the necessary orders might be sent to the frontiers relative to the escort, if required.

We bought two horses to-day, one for 25 dollars and the other for 10 dollars, the latter for luggage, and the former for the saddle. The low price at which these animals are sold, caused me to make the inquiry, how it was that they were not exported to Gibraltar, or even the Spanish market, where one which can be purchased here for 30 dollars, would bring 200 dollars at least. I discovered that the high

export duty of 100 dollars, is imposed by the Emperor on embarking any horse, and that mares are not allowed to be exported at all; the duty on horses also amounts to a prohibition, as a special order from the Emperor must be had for that purpose. A contract exists between the British Government and the Emperor, for exporting to Gibraltar a certain quantity of cattle for the supply of the garrison of that town at the rate of five dollars per head, which are paid for in powder and arms.

The duty on private exportation of bullocks is 10 dollars, and if a cow 100 dollars; fowls even pay a duty of fourpence, equal to the price at which they are purchased. The government of Morocco appear to have a decided objection to any thing in the *female line* leaving the kingdom; many of the Jews residing in Gibraltar have their wives in Tetaun, not being able to procure leave to embark them, and this when granted, costs about two hundred dollars. The whole system of the government of Morocco is conducted on the most illiberal plan. All the principal articles of trade being monopolized by the government, cochineal, sulphur, powder, silk, and iron can only be sold by one individual in each town, on account of government, and no person under penalty of their right hand can purchase more of

any one of the articles above specified than they require for their own consumption, in the trade in which they are engaged. Sulphur costs the government about two dollars per hundred weight at Tetaun, and is resold at from sixteen to twenty. Cochineal is, however, the most lucrative branch of the revenue, scarlet being the prevailing colour used in the dress of the Moorish and Jewish ladies, as in cloaks, waistcoats, &c., for the men; it is worth here about sixteen dollars per ounce, and such effective measures are taken to prevent the smuggling of it, that it is never attempted. In every town where silk goods are manufactured in which the cochineal is used, a government dyer is appointed, and he must present the article he is about to dye to the person appointed by government for that purpose, who furnishes him with a sufficient quantity of the dye; when the process of dyeing has been completed, the articles must be presented to the cochineal agent, in order that he may be convinced it was required for the purpose stated by the purchaser, and not for sending to any other part of the territory, or to retain in his possession, by which the duty might be evaded: he is obliged to return the surplus, if any, to government, frequent visits

being made to ascertain that no person has more in his house than he can give the strictest account of.

To-day a caravan arrived from Tlemecen, bringing us information that the expedition, or *grande armée*, was expected to commence operations immediately. Tegedempt, Mascara, and Tlemecen, were supposed by the Emir to be the towns which they intended attacking, orders had therefore been given in pursuance of the plan of operations which His Highness follows, (that of General Mina) for the inhabitants of these towns to hold themselves in readiness to evacuate them, and orders had been given that all capable of bearing arms, should be prepared to rally round the red banner of the Prophet, wherever the place of *rendezvous* should be named, and bring ten days' provisions with them. General Bugeaud had assumed the command in Algiers; the Dukes of Orleans, Nemours, and Aumale, had also determined to seek laurels in the African field, if laurels are to be gained in an unjust cause, and in a war carried on in such a way that it can only find a parallel in the wars of the Indian tribes of the Ohio and Mississippi. I entertained, at the time, suspicions, which were afterwards confirmed, that these great prepa-

rations were intended more to frighten the Emir into a peace advantageous to the French, than with the hopes of any favourable result to the *grande nation*, from the operations in the field, in this grave of brave soldiers, of whom many most unwillingly are contending against the just rights of the free-born Arab. We were aware that no treaty would be entered into by the Emir till our arrival, but still our anxiety to be enabled to proceed on our journey was increased, from the certainty that if the French had left Algiers, or Oran, on their expedition, previous to our arrival at Tegedempt, our joining the Emir would be attended with greater difficulties and inconvenience, from the circumstance, that he would in all probability have formed his camp, for the assembly of his irregular forces, more in the interior of the country.

Two Arabs paid us a visit this night to see if we were on the alert; for the last two nights we had only four soldiers on guard, two of whom always slept on the terrace, these gave the alarm, by challenging them; our guard below, immediately awoke those who were off watch, and as we all slept with our clothes on, we were in a few minutes on the terrace, armed and ready for action. One of the robbers shortly after made his appearance

on one of the neighbouring roofs, and being challenged, "Menhoud," or who comes there, he again commenced his retreat without answering. His object had been no doubt to see what force we mustered, and finding we were rather too strong a party, he wisely deemed discretion to be the better part of valour; as he was getting down from the house he was on, to one which was a little lower, we gave him a shot from one of the carbines, not with the intention of hitting him, but merely to frighten him a little. The following morning they were apprehended, and lodged in the gaol; the one we had fired at, turned out to be a sherif, that is, of the blood of Mahomet; that royal blood sometimes condescends to unite with "minions of the moon," we have a noble example of, in our own Harry the fifth of glorious memory, so that it is not surprising some wild scions should exist amongst the descendants of the Prophet.

This night was doomed to be one of adventures. I had lain down to take a little repose, when I was awakened by the discharge of a pistol-shot in the room; in an instant I was on my feet, and looking round, beheld the room full of smoke, and Candido standing in the midst of it, like grim death, his eyes extended to the full

stretch of their orbits, his mouth wide open, shewing his white teeth, and both arms extended horizontally ; in the right was still grasped the weapon of death, whilst his countenance indicated fright and astonishment. My first exclamation was, " What the devil is up now ! " a second glance at poor Blackee, and the truth flashed upon my mind. He had been ruminating on the *dangers that environ him who meddles with cold iron*, as Hudibras says, when having cocked the pistol to see if it was in a serviceable state, he was replacing it, at half-cock, it went off, lodging the ball in the wall, a few feet above my head. The Moor, Mousa, was lying close to Candido, and the wadding, which rebounded from the wall, had set fire to the ample folds of his Turkish trowsers ; so terror-struck was poor Candido, that he would have remained looking at the fracas till all was in a blaze, had I not extinguished the flame.

Mousa shook himself and rubbed his eyes, without saying anything but "*Kilb el kilb*," dog, son of a dog, which sentence he uttered with true Turkish gravity. My interpreter was, however, equally as frightened as the black, the terror of both afforded me a hearty laugh ; when Candido sufficiently recovered his presence of mind to explain the sen-

sation he felt; he did so, by stating, like a true negro, that his head had appeared to him as big as a pumpkin, but that for the future he would never put his finger near a trigger, unless the pistol was levelled at an enemy, as there was no keeping "de dam ting" from going off when once cocked. So sound asleep were the rest of the party, that they were merely half roused on the report made by the pistol, and again resigned themselves to the arms of Morpheus. My friend who was in the next room, was so overcome with sleep, in consequence of having been up all night, that he did not even hear the report of the pistol.

The courier who had been sent to Fez returned, bringing letters from Hadgi Taleb, stating that he had entered into a contract for the animals which we required for the journey, and that Ebensur would leave there the following morning.

The minister regretted extremely the news which had been received of the intended expedition of the French, and that having communicated the same to his imperial master, they had both joined in uniting their prayers to Almighty God and the prophet on behalf of their friend and ally Abdel-Kader, and trusted their prayers would be favourably heard, to the confusion of the French

army, and that of all unbelievers in their holy faith.

However, in the humble opinion of an infidel like myself, his imperial majesty's dollars and muskets, powder and ball, &c., are of more service to the Emir than all the prayers which he and his premier can offer up to God. Hadgi Taleb, in his double capacity as premier, and a private friend of the Emir's, favours his cause to the utmost of his power, and the ample folds of religion's cloak serve as a parapet against most of the remonstrances made by the French government against the open protection afforded by the Emperor to the Emir, which he as well as all mussulmen are obliged to do by their religion; Abd-el-Kader is considered as commander-in-chief of the army employed in the holy war, this being the name given to the contest with the French.

If, in the time of the crusaders, holy friars went over the whole of Europe, inspiring martial ardour into the young, and soliciting the contributions of those who were unable to bear arms, in order to defray the expenses of the expeditions to the holy land; here, in like manner, royal or rather imperial edicts have been issued, calling upon the faithful to contribute their mite to the general cause, and

the exhortations of many a holy Marabout have been heard in the zaara or desert, urging the wild Arab to mount his fleet charger, and seek a glorious death in the field of battle; to repair where sixty lovely brides await him, whose cheeks are ever blooming with the loveliness of the opening rose bud; this is a comfortable belief to those who can persuade themselves of its truth; Moore says,

“God forgive me, if paradise be as Mahomet paints,
I’d worship the eyes of his saints.”

Could I believe in the heavenly prospect, my friend the Emir would have no occasion to lament that I am doomed to perdition, for I would endeavour as speedily as possible to procure the white litter, and the four heavenly bearers, who were to waft me from this transitory world, to a paradise so inviting to a soldier.

The Jews have been extremely busy the last few days, white-washing their houses, and making preparations for the celebration of the feast of the passover, which commences to-morrow. In different nations, each has its particular way of distinguishing those who are of the *bon ton*. In China it is to be judged of by the length of the

nails; here, at least amongst the female part of the community, the colour of them is a sure indication of the rank of the owner. The Jewesses here not only dye their nails, but also their hands for this festival. Their manner of performing this operation is as follows; having made a paste of henna as thick as dough, they cover their hands with it to the thickness of a penny piece, they then have them bandaged up for the night; in the morning the paste being rubbed off, their hands are left a *beautiful* red; and so firmly does the dye take, that it remains on for eight or ten days, without any occasion for renewing the operation; at the expiration of the eight days, which time the feast lasts, they wash their hands and return to their usual occupations.

April 6th.—A large caravan came in from Fez, on their way to Tlemecen; having heard that we intended starting from here in a few days, they were anxious to proceed together, and informed us that Ebensur would be in during the course of the next day. The road from hence to Tlemecen being through the desert of Angad, is inhabited by the most notorious robbers in Africa; from all quarters Arabs and Moors are coming in, to avail themselves of the favourable opportunity of

proceeding with so large a caravan as will accompany us, escorted by a strong detachment of soldiers.

Our host and the Jewish inmates of the house have been deafening our ears all the evening singing psalms; whilst Hadgi Taleb and the Emperor are praying God to confound all Christians, the Jews are to night singing their feats in Egypt, when *they* were a great and strong nation, at the same time most devoutly praying that all Christians and Moors be discomfited, and that they may be once more made the greatest of nations; ere this arrives they must, however, be a little less fearful of exposing themselves to lead and steel; at present, as a nation, they do not much fancy either of these articles except in the way of trade; but that there is no rule without exception, will be seen in the sequel, by the conduct of my friend Mr. Ebensur, on the run away from Tlemecen. It might so have happened, that at this time thousands of our versatile neighbours were uniting their prayers in the church of Notre Dame, to the throne of Divine grace, in favour of the *Sang Royale* and the brave *moustaches* who are endeavouring to plant the cross where the crescent is still likely to flourish for many years as the ruling planet. Alas! how many a gallant youth is now, or has

taken the parting kiss from the lips of his *chère amie*, promising to return crowned with laurels, and like the heroes of Mazagran¹, famous in story, to lay them at her feet, receiving the reward of a troubadour ; yet his fate will likely be far different, for in all probability he will yield his last sigh on a bed of sickness, a prey to fatigue and the hardships consequent on a campaign. Here it is frequently impossible to carry even litters to remove the wounded from the field of battle, where they are in many instances left to their melancholy fate. Melancholy indeed, as should they fall into the hands of some Arab, who even gives them quarter, the want of surgeons in the Emir's territory is such, that to nature alone is left the cure of the wounds received even by his own troops. The death of a soldier in the field has no terrors for the brave ; but to linger on for months on the bed of sickness, or to be led to the grave by the slow torture of a festering wound, as I have seen

¹ Mazagran is situated near Arzeo, lat. 37, long. 25 E. in 1840. This fort made a most gallant resistance against upwards of 7,000 Arab forces, commanded by Ben Aratch. The garrison consisted only of a company of the *chasseurs d'Afrique*, who were rewarded with a medal on the occasion. The officers and several of the non-commissioned officers received the cross of the legion of honour, which on this occasion I must say they well deserved.

many, is a melancholy prospect for a young hero, who had seen visions of a marshal's baton dancing before his eyes.

Of how little importance are the feuds which exist amongst the individuals, or even nations of this paltry globe, to that Power, who rules over countless millions of worlds ! The inhabitants of each of these planets are perhaps as diversified as the various races which we find on the earth. And no doubt they are upon the same unfriendly terms amongst each other, as we are here ; most probably in each of them have existed as many lawgivers as we have had on earth ; and without stretching the imagination, we may naturally suppose, that many of their wise men have considered all the other worlds to have been created for the particular use of the one which they inhabit. In my opinion, one conclusion ought to be come to, by all rational beings, viz., that the golden rule laid down by our Creator "is to do unto all men as we would they should do unto us ;" doing this, we must give honour to Him from whom all blessings flow. Most of the evils of this life, every one must admit, are brought on by ourselves. For my part, I have met many truly good Mussulmen, and also good men of various

other religions; and my firm hope is that *one paradise* may await us all; the realization of that beautiful prophecy of our Saviour's, that there shall be but *one fold and one Shepherd for us all*.

CHAPTER IV.

Arrival of Mr. Samuel Ebenzur—Presents sent by Hadgi Taleb, who recommends Mahomet a hamlooming for his conduct in Fez—Abd-el-Cream leaves us—Visit of two Marabouts—Departure from Taasa—Tomb of Muley Ismael—Number of the Caravan—Pilgrims to Mecca and Jerusalem—Village of Aza—Arrival at Oushdah—Population of Oushdah—Departure from that Place—Pass the Taafna—Tower of the Jew—Arrival at Tlemecen—Description of that town—Anecdote of Don José—Treatment of the French Prisoners at Tlemecen—Difference of Government in Algiers and Morocco—Leave Tlemecen for Mascara—Anecdote of Hadgi Taleb.

EBENSUR arrived on the morning of the 8th : he brought a present from Hadgi Taleb, consisting of a beautifully embroidered saddle with silver mountings, and a bridle to match it, for Mr. Mannucci ; he also brought several mules laden with fine flour, koskousou, and other provisions of all sorts in the greatest abundance, and a fine horse of the true Arab cast, a grey. As this is a colour which I have always fancied, I immediately procured it from my friend Mr. M. The Jew renegade Mahomet

came with Ebenzur ; and his conduct in Fez was such, that it procured him a recommendation for a *hamlooin* ; the orange stick was accordingly again brought into requisition. Two officers also came with Ebensur, having been sent by the Emperor to accompany us to Tlemecen. Our friend Abd-el-Cream now took his leave, and we gave him thirty-two dollars for having had the honour of his company thus far.

It may be as well to inform the reader, that when you are favoured with an escort, you are not exactly obliged to pay them, but they consider themselves entitled to a dollar per head for each soldier, and the officers from eight to thirty-two, according to their rank.

On the 9th Mr. M. called upon the Governor, to take leave of him, and request that the escort might be furnished us the following morning. He went in Turkish dress, and in state : one of our Arab servants on either side of the horse, and twenty soldiers to clear the way ; the rear was brought up by the two officers from Fez. The streets were crowded, all being anxious to see the *lion* of the day. Two sons of one of the principal Marabouts in this neighbourhood called upon us to-day ; one of them, the elder, was about fifty

years old, and the younger not much less. They gave us their blessing, and prayed that we might have a safe voyage through the desert of Angad. After partaking of a slight repast of fruits and sweetmeats,—of the latter we had brought a good supply from Gibraltar,—our holy friends took their leave, assuring us that their prayers should be continually offered up for us, and the holy cause in which I was engaged with my friend M.

Marabout signifies Saint, and the qualification necessary for canonization is, being a simple fool, or one who contents himself with saying and acting the greatest absurdities ; but he must not use his hands, as, if so, he ceases to be considered as inspired by the prophet, and is treated as a madman ought to be,—being chained. When any Marabout utters an incoherent rhapsody, it is considered as allegorical, and the bystanders puzzle their brains to find out what it alludes to ; if they cannot apply the oracle in any way to their satisfaction, they console themselves by imagining that it is to them a hidden mystery, by the will of the prophet.

On the morning of the 11th we took our departure from Taasa, and remained for the night at one of the Fonduques erected by government for the convenience and protection of caravans. These

consist of square inclosures, protected by walls two feet thick and twelve high; at every fifty or sixty yards distance are placed square towers, about twenty feet high, by eight or ten square, with loopholes for musketry. These forts, if so they may be called, are generally in a sad state of dilapidation. This Fonduque is celebrated as containing the tomb of Muley Ismael, of which the ruins alone exist in the present day. But it never merited much consideration for its architecture, being composed of a house divided into two rooms: the outer about twelve feet by twenty, and the inner about eight by the same length. In the latter are the remains of a small monument, about six feet by four; the top has fallen in, and the walls only remain. I was proceeding with my researches, when I discovered that it was by chance I had been enabled to make this *reconnoissance*, as, had I been observed to enter the building, the Moors would not have allowed me.

Hadgi Mahomet now made his appearance in search of me, and told me, more by signs than words, that I had been guilty of high treason in coming here, and to make my way out as soon as possible, as, if I was seen by the Arabs, there would be the devil to pay. I here counted the number of our caravan, which amounted to four

hundred and twenty beasts of burden of all descriptions, viz., camels, mules, and horses, and one hundred and sixty persons, without including twenty soldiers of the Emperor's, and the two officers. The soldiers were only to accompany us to Aza, where they were to be relieved by a fresh escort from Busean's forces. With the caravan we had two parties of pilgrims: the one going *via* Tegedempt to Tripoli, in order to join the annual caravan for Mecca; the other party, who bore the standard of the prophet on a pole about ten feet high, surmounted by a crescent, was a devout assembly, belonging entirely to Fez, and who were not going to Mecca, but to Mount Calvary. This mountain is also peculiarly sacred to Mahomedans, as well as Christians, in consequence of its having been the burying-place of many of their most renowned warriors in the time of the crusades; and this is one of the principal reasons they have defended with such obstinacy the possession of this part of the Ottoman empire, being unwilling to give up Palestine on any account. Enormous sums have been offered at different times, by the Christians, and also by the Jews, but the Ottoman Porte has not been willing to accede to any terms with either.

On the 12th we encamped at a river, which is called Rio Salada; but, however, it is only a main branch of that river, which it joins below Garsis;—and on the 13th we reached the beautiful little valley of Aza, in which is situated the village of that name, although none such is marked in the chart; from which circumstance I am induced to suppose it to be the same as that called El Youb, lat. 36° , and about $1^{\circ} 40'$ west of Greenwich. For the last three days our route laid through the mountainous and barren country of Angad, and this lovely vale broke upon the eye-sight like an oasis in the desert.

In the valley are several detached Arab villages, and that of the Jews, situated on the slope of one of the hills, is surrounded by a stone wall about twelve feet high, and they are here protected by peculiar privileges. There exists here a Fonduque similar to that which we remained in last night; but being entirely in ruins, we encamped close to the small stream which waters the valley, also running into the Rio Salada.

On the 14th we left this pleasant spot, and brought up for the night at another Fonduque, erected by the great Muley Ismael, who appears to have been the most enlightened of the Moorish

Kings, or Emperors; as all the public works I have seen are stated to have been built in his time. Here the guard we had brought from Taasa left us, receiving one dollar per head for their services; in addition to this, they also received one shilling per head from the caravan, both for men and beasts. We did not, fortunately, receive any interruption from the robbers; but our not doing so was entirely owing to our being such a formidable caravan,—the most numerous that had passed this way for many a year. The robbers, to the number of about fifty, on horseback, showed themselves at a difficult pass in the mountains to-day; but it was merely a *reconnaissance*, as, on the caravan approaching, they disappeared. Had they made up their minds to attack, I have no doubt they had more force in reserve; but they seldom come to an engagement with a caravan when a serious resistance is to be apprehended.

On the 15th we arrived at Oushdah. In the chart this town is called Tefzra. I intended having taken a sketch of this place, which is the last town in the Emperor's dominions, but found that it would be entirely uninteresting: the only thing visible being the minaret of the Mosque, the town

itself being entirely embosomed in the olive orchards and gardens which surround the houses. The Governor of this place received us with every mark of consideration. He had sent twenty soldiers to relieve our former guard at the Fonduque ; one of these went on before the caravan, to announce our arrival. On reaching the town, we found that the officers' quarters had been prepared for our reception, consisting of two pretty fair rooms. The Governor, immediately we alighted, sent his black slaves with coffee, and a sort of butter-cakes, and new honey.

The population of Oushdah may be estimated at about ten thousand, nine hundred of whom are of the Jewish persuasion, and it now forms the frontier line of Morocco. Formerly it was the river Taafna ; but the Emperor has given up to Abd-el-Kader the territory from Oushdah to the *Taafna* as a mark of his esteem. The Emir, however, is nominally *Kalifa* for this territory, that is, Vice King, acknowledging the sovereignty of the Emperor ;—however, there is nothing derogatory to his Royal Highness in this circumstance, as the Emperor, although inferior in power to the Ottoman Porte, is still considered as supreme head of

the Faithful: even the Sultan of Constantinople, in the form of prayer used in his dominions, prays for the Emperor.

On the 17th we left Oushdah, having first paid our escort the usual reward, and made the Governor a considerable present, which is always customary, and which we also did at Taasa, although I omitted to mention the circumstance.

The country from Oushdah to the Taafna is a desert plain, but on the banks of the stream or river there are numerous villages belonging to the robber tribes of Angad; the river of Oushdah as well as that of Taafna join the river of Tlemecen, the ancient Issus; in fact they may be considered as its principal sources. The small stream of the Taafna is celebrated from the action known by that name, and from the treaty of Taafna, concluded between H. R. H. and general Bugeaud on the 24th of the month of Safar, 1253, or 30th May 1837 of the Christian era.

Arriving here early on the afternoon, we thought it better to proceed a few leagues further, in order to shorten the next day's stage to Tlemecen; the country immediately you pass the Taafna changes from plains to mountains. The soldiers of the Emperor left us here, there being no further

danger ; having only the two officers, we had not proceeded a league, when we were met by one of the Emir's cavalry, bearing a letter from Ben Nonan, governor of Tlemecen, directed to the chief of any tribe where we might remain for the night, with orders to furnish us with every thing we required. We were treated with great consideration in the territory of the Emperor ; but here, as of the *coterie* of the Sultan, by which title the Emir is known in his own territory, we had only to order and be obeyed. However, we had no trouble of even ordering, our *macasinier*—the term given to a soldier of cavalry—looked after every thing. We halted about six in the evening at some Arab tents near the “height of the tower :” to this belongs rather a curious tradition.

The remains of half a tower are to be seen close to the road, about sixty feet in height by twenty square ; in part of the wall which surrounds an immense inclosure, situated about half a mile from the present town of Tlemecen, exists the half of a similar tower, and the Arab legend says that they were formerly one and the same ; but that having been built by a Jew mason and an Arab, they had some quarrel relative to the settlement of their claims for the building of it, when the

Jew's half took wing during the night, and next morning, to the utter astonishment of all parties, the Jew's half was discovered in its present site ! What a field for Mrs. Radcliffe !

The enclosure in question, which contains about eight acres of ground, is surrounded by a wall ten feet high and two feet thick : the period of its erection I could not ascertain ; but it was built by one of the Emperors of Morocco, who many centuries ago laid siege to Tlemecen for the space of three years, and was finally obliged to return, without having achieved its conquest.

It was stated to be the Emperor Muley Isdris, but not being able to obtain authentic information as to this point, I will not vouch for its truth. We had scarcely pitched our tents, when half a roast sheep made its appearance, to take the edge off our appetite ; and about an hour afterwards the other half was served up with koskouso, and a pair of fowls as a side dish, also prepared with it. A plentiful supply of corn was brought for our animals, and we had at least the pleasure of laying ourselves down to take a night's rest without fear of robbers. The chief of the tribe being now answerable for our safety to the Emir, he stationed eight sentries round our tents with orders to fire

upon any one who might attempt to approach them after we had retired to rest.

One of the Arabs remarked to the chief, who was only a lad about eighteen years old, that he ought to look after the caravan ; but the latter replied, that he was not obliged to protect it, but that his life was answerable for us. This conversation, which was overheard by us, inspired perfect confidence, and we slept without any fears of having our slumbers disturbed by finding an ataghan at our throats.

The morning of the 18th was ushered in by dense clouds, and a cold which gave us to understand that this day's journey was to be a most unpleasant one. Although at a rainy season of the year, from the time we left Tetaun we had not a day's rain, except when we entered Taasa. We had hardly commenced our journey when it commenced hailing, raining, and snowing alternately ; the country continued mountainous, and to add to the misfortune, the roads were the worst we had yet come through.

At about one o'clock we came to the walls of Muley Isdris's encampment, proceeding through which we reached Tlemecen at about 2 P.M. : it is situated on a rising ground, with high hills to the

S.E. forming part of the chain which rises near the Taafna, and taking a northerly direction, ends at the coast of Oran. Tlemecen is in lat. $39^{\circ} 40'$, long. 1° W. of Greenwich. The town is almost surrounded by trees; in ancient times it must have contained upwards of a hundred thousand inhabitants, the ruins extending in all directions round the present town, but particularly to the N. and N.E. sides. The present town is surrounded by walls, and even these, although of a remote time, it is easily perceived are far more modern than the ancient moss-grown walls, which give the traveller some idea of the ancient splendour of this once the capital of Arabia. The Mechouar, or fort, is capable of containing five thousand troops, and is surrounded by a wall, about forty feet high, of similar construction to most Moorish forts in the interior, being only for musketry. The present population of Tlemecen is about twenty thousand, of which one thousand are of the Jewish persuasion. Here the Sultan has established a manufactory of cannon, under the direction of a Spanish gentleman named Don José: the pieces which he has hitherto manufactured are four and six-pounders, made of brass: an anecdote of this gentleman amused me not a little. On his first arrival here, he, like a true Andalusian, be-

came extremely discontented at being isolated from the fair sex. The strictness of the Mahometan laws on this particular, prevented him having any communication with Moorish ladies, and Jewish ones being equally repugnant to a "true Catholic," above all a Spaniard. After he had proved to the Sultan that he was a perfect master of the business he had undertaken to perform, by making two four-pounders, he solicited a private interview, when he plainly told his Highness that he would remain no longer in his employ unless he could obtain a wife to keep him company, in the solitude to which he found himself reduced. Abd-el-Kader told him to turn Mussulman, and he might have four wives if he wished for them. Don José was as little inclined to change his religion as to marry a Jewish fair, and urged the Sultan to allow him to take his departure. The Sultan saw that Don José was determined, and not wishing to lose his services, asked him if he knew any woman in Africa, in any of the towns in possession of the French, whom he would conceive might be induced to come to him. The Don replied that there was one, who lived in Oran, naming the street. The Sultan told him that he had no occasion to give himself the least further concern about the affair, and immediately sending

one of his secret emissaries into Oran, in three days he came back, bringing with him the fair lady in question, to the great satisfaction of her expecting lover, who now proceeded with renewed ardour and zeal in the fabrication of guns, for which he receives three dollars, or 12s. 6d. *per diem*. He is also furnished with a good house in the fort, and supplied with whatever he requires in the shape of provisions *gratis*, and the Jews are ordered to furnish him with what *agua ardiente* is requisite for himself, and the workmen employed in the founding, &c. These are principally prisoners whom Don José has selected out of those in the depôt here. A captain of the 15th L. Infantry was at this time a prisoner here, and was allowed by the Bey Bouhamidi to live with Don José, and to amuse himself in the best way he could, by hunting or shooting—for the latter, this is the part of the world. One morning the French officer in question brought home thirty-two partridges. The government here allow the whole of the prisoners to remain at large in the town, there being not the least danger of their attempting to escape, which would be certain death from the first Arab who met them in the country, unless provided with the Royal permission. This fate also attends any Christian

who falls into the hands of these true subjects to the Emir; in their zeal they fancy any one whom they come in contact with to be a prisoner endeavouring to escape, and I have known several French renegades who attempted to go from one town to another without a pass, suffer the loss of their heads for their rashness.

At present there are about eighty non-commissioned officers and soldiers, but the principal depôts are Tegedempt, and Taasa on the Desert, as this town is termed, to distinguish it from one of the same name in Morocco. Amongst the prisoners were some Spaniards who had belonged to the Foreign Legion, and five Maltese, but these gentry, although they boasted of being English, could speak nothing but Italian. They begged my influence with the Emir, for their being exchanged, which I promised to do, having already written to His Highness, stating my opinion that it would be much better to exchange the whole of the prisoners, as they were only a useless expense, whilst the prisoners whom the French had in Algiers and Oran, would be of service in the field.

The manner in which the prisoners are treated in the Emir's territory gave me great satisfaction,

proving how unfounded the reports were which stated that no quarter was given by the Arabs : so far from this being the case, His Highness has issued a general order, prohibiting the cutting the head off of any one who may be taken prisoner ; that his orders are sometimes unattended to, is owing to the cruelties exercised by the French in their expeditions, from which results the natural consequence, that if one of them should happen to fall into the hands of an Arab who has a private wrong to avenge, he takes the law into his own hands, revenging himself most probably on the innocent : this however cannot be avoided.

The proclamation made by the Emir in 1838, in which he states that you can travel through the whole of his country with a bag of gold in your hand without danger of being robbed, is perfectly true. The difference between the efficiency of government here and that of Morocco, is striking ; the Sultan is beloved by all, respected as a Marabout's descendant, but he is a terror to the robber, whom he executes without much ceremony being gone through in the way of trial. In consequence of the expected invasion of the French, his Royal Highness had left Tegyedempt, proceeding to the plains of the Schellif with four thousand of the

regular troops, and about twenty thousand of the irregular forces.

We received letters from the Emir, stating that propositions for peace had been made by the French, but that he was not disposed to listen to any, and that he would enter into no negotiation on the subject unless by our advice; but he had acted up to our suggestion as to the exchange of prisoners, having sent by the courier who was the bearer of his present letter, an order that those who were at present in Tlemecen should be forwarded immediately to Tegedempt, and from thence to his camp, in order that an exchange might take place, having entered into preliminary articles for that purpose. On the morning of the 24th, the French prisoners left on their way to Tegedempt, and at 1 P. M. we also took our departure on the route to Mascara. Previous to leaving Tlemecen, we went and paid our respects to an uncle of the Sultan, who had arrived on his route to Fez, where he was going, in order to present the Emperor of Morocco with eight beautiful Arabian steeds; as fine animals as I had ever seen, the saddles and bridles being richly embroidered with gold, the stirrups and other ornaments were of the same precious metal.

The horses were reckoned, even here, worth 300 dollars each, the value of each saddle and bridle being estimated at 2,000 dollars: the reader will think 300 dollars for a horse of the true Arab breed no great price, but a dollar in horse-flesh here is equal to a pound sterling in England. This handsome present was no doubt destined as a return for some thousand muskets and tons of powder which the Emperor had lately presented the Sultan with; a present of much more value to the latter than horses, at least under the present circumstances, when the greatest difficulty exists in receiving supplies by sea. We proceeded on the road to Mascara for about a league, when we diverged to the right in order to visit the camp of Bouhamidi Bey, the Kalifa or vice-king of Tlemecen, the muleteers with the heavy baggage continuing on the direct road to Mascara.

About three o'clock in the evening we crossed the river Issus, which empties itself into the sea near Oran, and which is mentioned by Fénelon in Telemachus as flowing over golden sands. Doubtless a considerable traffic has been anciently carried on at its *embouchure* in this article, which is brought through Arabia from Tombuctoo. A considerable trade is still carried on with Tombuctoo from Fez.

Hadgi Taleb accumulated the principal part of his fortune in this trade. On his way from Tombuctoo with a hundred camel loads of this precious article, having halted for the night, he missed one of the camels with its load. Being a most devout believer in God and the Prophet, he told his dependants that if he was a just man in the sight of God his camel would not be lost. Fortunately, the next day his camel was brought him by one who was travelling the same road, and had found it a short distance from the regular track, the animal having strayed from the rest when passing through a thicket. Hadgi Taleb gave thanks to the Prophet, and this circumstance served not a little to establish the opinion of his sanctity. I must here do him the justice to state, that he is at all events most charitable to those of his own persuasion, distributing upwards of three hundred dollars every Friday in alms.

It being too late to reach the Camp to-night, we halted at an Arab Douwar, a village of tents about three leagues from Tlemecen, in a north-east direction. Here everything was done to make us as comfortable as possible for the night.

CHAPTER V.

Departure from the Arab village—Arrival at the Camp of Bouhamidi—Presents to the Bey—French make a sortie from Oran—Visit to the Zaara—French in pursuit of our party—French column returns to Oran—Kermes—Aim Tetaun—Resume the Journey to Mascara—Mascara—Wool of Algiers—Cashmere goats—Convoy going to Blida taken by the Emir—Escape of the Emir from a French Square—Anecdote of De Casse.

EARLY in the morning of the 25th April we left our Arab village, and took a mountain road to where the camp of Bouhamidi was situated, at a short distance from Oran. We had not proceeded above two leagues when we found a beautiful fountain situated on the top of a high hill, and shaded with large fig-trees. Here we determined to take our breakfast, consisting of some cold fowls and fruits, to which when we had added a glass or two of *agua ardiente*, we felt inclined to enjoy the beauties of the prospect before us, and allowed our horses to graze for an hour or two on the rich pasturage which bordered the small stream formed by the fountain, and meandered down the side of the hill, seeking to pour its small tribute into the Issus. From hence we had a view of the mountain, at the

foot of which is situated the town of Oran, and also of the sea, distant about five leagues; it was almost a perfect calm; a small sloop was steering its course over the azure main towards the eastward. Two months had now elapsed since we left Tetaun, and it was with a feeling of pleasure which is only known to a native of our sea-girt isle, that I once more beheld the ocean, that source of my country's wealth, and which ever brings to mind "when wandering on a foreign shore" the friends of our youth; all that are near and dear, and whom perhaps we are doomed to behold no more.

At noon we arrived at the camp of Bouhamidi. The first thing which struck me was to see a horse tail at the tent of the Kalifa. I was not aware that the emblem which in Turkey distinguishes the rank of the Pachas, had been adopted by the vice-kings of the provinces into which Abd-el-Kader has divided his dominions. We had scarcely pitched our tents when refreshments were sent us by the Kalifa, consisting of coffee and dates, &c., and shortly after Mr. M. went and paid his respects to him. A slight head-ache served me as an excuse to avoid this, to me, stupid ceremony; as, not being able to speak Arabic, these interviews, unless on business, afforded me little pleasure; and I pre-

ferred seeing the Sultan prior to having any communication with his Kalifas. He was about going on a hunting expedition, an amusement of which he is extremely fond, having several beautiful greyhounds, (these are very like our English ones, except a little stronger made) and was anxious that we should accompany him. This appeared to me rather a French compliment; coming as travellers, it might be naturally supposed we were not much inclined to fatigue our horses, or lose our time unnecessarily.

We sent Bouhamidi a present of muslins, coffee, sugar, &c., which is customary on visiting any of the chiefs; but it appeared that he had a greater fancy for a silver-mounted single-barrelled fowling-piece, in possession of Mr. M., and which some friend of the Bey's had seen at Tlemecen. He expressed a wish to look at it, and was so much pleased with it, that he asked for some of our fine powder, in order to try it on the shooting and hunting excursion on which he was about to proceed. We accordingly sent him some, and begged his acceptance of the fowling-piece. He left the camp about four in the afternoon, purposing to return the next day; but we took our leave, purposing to start on our way to Mascara the first thing in the morning,

consequently we left at six o'clock the following day. We had just commenced ascending a hill opposite that on which the camp was situated, when we met a courier, who was bearer of the unpleasant intelligence of the French having left Oran on a cattle gathering expedition.

On looking back at the camp we had just left, we beheld all in motion, the drums beating to arms, and a party of cavalry had already unfurled the blood-red standard, whilst the horse-tail was loosed to the floating breeze, announcing that there would soon be work for the crows that hovered over head, and welcomed the sound by their hoarse screeching. There were about five hundred cavalry in the camp, the remainder being with the regiment of regular infantry, who were *en bivouac* about a league from here nearer to Oran.

Circumstances rendered it out of my power to assist in the conflict which might take place. But a soldier's heart ever beats with emotion when he beholds a martial band about to march to the field of battle. Had I followed my inclination, the spurs would soon have been in my horse's side, and I would have joined these wild warriors in their present expedition. It could not be. Sighing, I averted my eyes from a scene which brought to my recol-

lection many a hard fought field in the cause of Spanish liberty, and friends now no more. All I could do was to offer up my best wishes for their success. During the day frequent information of the enemy's movements was sent us. We remained at a Douwar in the mountains, and the French column bivouacked about two leagues from us.

On the 26th we proceeded on our road, which lay across the extensive plains of Mascara. They are about twelve leagues long, and varying in breadth; in some places they are five leagues, whilst in others they are not more than from one to one and a-half. About ten A.M. we entered the plains, and shortly after reached an Arab village situated on the banks of the river Mascara, which joins the Issus. We had determined on pitching our tents here, and taking breakfast, to await further information of the enemy's movements; but scarcely had we dismounted our horses, when two Arabs came at full gallop to inform us that the French had commenced their march in our direction, and it would not be safe to proceed on our road to Mascara, as it was expected their intended movement was upon that town. At the same time a soldier brought a letter from the

(Aga) colonel of the first regiment of militia of the district of Tlemecen, stating we had better unite our party with his family, who were about a league distant from us, where every attention would be paid, and information sent us of all the operations going on in the field. This appearing the most advantageous plan we could pursue, we consequently determined to adopt it. Proceeding with the soldiers to incorporate ourselves with this party of fugitives, we came up with them in about two leagues' distance, in direction of the desert; the general refuge of the Arab from the chase of the unjust invader of his hearth, if this term may be applied to a tent.

During our route the whole of the tribes we fell in with, were preparing for flight, and we came up with many like ourselves in full march to the rear. When we reached the Aga's family, the scene was perfectly picturesque; the Aga's wives were four in number; they were mounted on camels, and to hide these fair dames from vulgar gaze, and at the same time protect them from the sun, a kind of cradle about six feet by three wide is made; on this is raised a frame six feet high. This machine is placed on the back of the camels, and coming to about one foot in cir-

cumference at top, it presents a laughable object, especially as the usual covering is a scarlet mantle round the bottom part, whilst a white one is placed round the top, giving at a distance the idea of a "monster-woman" with a white cap on. Add to the grotesque figures I have above stated, half naked Bedouin children, and their mothers enveloped in haiks, which formerly might have been white, but which in general were of a dirty brown colour from long use and want of washing. The women of the lower order do not conceal their faces, which are equally dirty with their clothes, and many of them tattooed; some crying, whilst others were driving on their cows and camels, lamenting some article of household furniture which had been left behind; flocks of sheep most reluctantly moving forward in *quick time*, to which they are unaccustomed; and you have the picture of the escape of an Arab tribe from a French razia.

The generality of the mountain tribes have much resemblance to the New Zealand ones, particularly the women, whose method of tattooing the face and legs is precisely similar. In point of beauty, and more so as far as concerns their manner towards Europeans, the New Zealand belles are superior, the latter vying with each other in

marks of esteem towards the stranger who visits their shores, whilst the Arab fair, if you, as a Christian, happen to cast your eye towards them, answers with a frown, and "Käffer ben el Kilb." Christian dog, and son of a dog, is most probably the answer, should she be of a certain age; the young ones sometimes favour one with a smile, but cast an anxious glance round to see that they are not observed by their Moslem lords.

We continued our flight all day, varying the direction according to the different reports brought in from the Aga. At six in the evening we halted in the mountains, and pitching our tents, the Aga's wives sent us plenty of koskouso and milk, already cooked. At night we received information that the French had reached the river Mascara, and were *en bivouac* at the spot where we had intended breakfasting in the morning.

A determination was made that we should remain here the following day, if the French came no nearer, and then proceed to Mascara should the way be clear. Coffee however was only just ready, when an Arab came in full gallop with the information that the column had commenced its march towards the place where we were now encamped. As they had not taken the grain from the pits which

they had discovered, neither did their motive appear to be cattle gathering ; we began to have some suspicion that their object was to take us, and not having the least inclination to afford the good people of Oran the amusement of seeing us shot, with military honours, the coffee pot was upset in the confusion, and we were soon in full retreat again ; but I had no idea of proceeding without something to take the edge off my appetite, and consequently filled the hood of my bernous with biscuit, and my flask with *agua ardiente*. About three o'clock in the afternoon, a Marabout brought us information that the French had reached our last night's quarters at twelve A.M. We thus became confirmed in our suspicions, and continued our march towards the desert : having reached the outskirts of it in the evening at five P. M., we pitched our tents, conceiving ourselves in perfect safety from any of our pursuers ; at eight in the evening, we received the pleasing intelligence that they had remained at our old camp till two P. M. and had then retired ; they without doubt became aware of the sailors' saying, that a stern chase is a long chase, and had given up their attempt as a failure, more particularly as from the direction we had taken, they perceived our intention was to learn how they

admired the prospect of a visit into the desert of Angad.

The information of their return to Oran was confirmed the following morning, and we consequently proceeded by the nearest route in prosecution of our journey to Mascara. We travelled for the greater part of the day through a barren and mountainous country ; but one at the same time abounding in riches, from the circumstance of its being covered with the plant which furnishes the *kermes* ; a small berry about the size of a pea split in two, and which gives a dye between vermilion and red, and is an article of considerable trade, selling at from a dollar to one dollar and a half per pound in Fez, whilst here during the month of May, which is the season for gathering it, it can be procured at from one bougou, (1s. 4d.) to one and a half per pound, when bought from the Arabs ; but if the proper plan were adopted, which is to send a party hired by the month, with a superintendent to direct their operations, it might be procured at from eight pence to one shilling per pound, and would form a most lucrative branch of trade. Towards the afternoon we came on a landscape of beautiful hill and dale, numerous Douwars or Arab villages were visible in all direc-

tions, and on a distant mountain appeared the village of Aim Tetaun, a spot selected by the Sultan as the site of a future town. I call it a future town, as at present it consists only of five stone houses occupied by Marabouts, and the tombs of two of the same sainted family, situated on the pinnacle of the mountain. From hence is commanded a view of the country, which surpasses in beauty any thing I ever saw ; from twenty to thirty Arab villages can be seen on the country below, which is rich and fertile in the extreme ; quarries of white granite abound in the mountain, consequently the principal requisite for building is at hand, and the one of the next importance, lime stone, is also abundant. As a situation for a fort it is the most eligible I have seen in Algiers, there are numerous fountains rising so near the summit of the hill, that water would always be at command ; and no height in the neighbourhood of the summit of Aim Tetaun could be selected, on which to erect any battery that could in any way bear on the fort which will hereafter be built.

On the 3rd of May, we took leave of the friendly family in whose company we had travelled for the last three days, and at about twelve arrived once more at the plains of Mascara ; here I had the good

fortune to pick up two or three of the small land turtle, just big enough for snuff boxes. We proceeded the whole length of the plains which run in the direction of Mascara, and remained for the night among a tribe of Arabs, who gave us the worst fare for supper we had yet met with, koskouso with milk, without mutton or fowls; it was too late at night when they brought us this fare, to make them cook anything else; before leaving in the morning we acquainted them with our intention to tell the Governor of Mascara of their conduct; they wished, on hearing this, to induce us to remain, offering to kill fowls, a sheep, or any thing we required, in order to make peace, but it was too late, we therefore in lieu of a blessing gave them a hearty cursing; and determining that our breakfast should make amends for the bad supper we had had on the previous night, the first tribe we came to, we commenced *vi et armis*, and seizing a sheep, Hadgi Mahomet was proceeding to kill it in due form; the Arabs perceiving that we were determined to breakfast at their expense, thought it better to give us what we required by fair means; and therefore proposed that in lieu of mutton we should have fowls and koskouso, the offer was accepted, and they imme-

diately set to work to prepare this dish, which was soon ready; having done ample justice to their cookery, we proceeded to a tower about three leagues from Mascara; here are situated some mineral baths, the remains of Roman architecture are visible, and the ruins of walls still to be seen above ground indicate that there formerly existed a town here, one of the many, now difficult even to ascertain the name of. We purposed taking the baths here, but did not arrive till too late in the evening, in consequence of being almost knocked up,—not surprising, considering we had come near seventy leagues within the last eight days.

To morrow being the birth day of Mahomet, all was festivity among the Arabs. Blank cartridge were expended by all who had muskets of the tribe; and amongst other ceremonies the principal men and elders of the tribe performed three times the circuit of the camp, outside the tents, singing, Blessed be Mahomet, the mother who bore him, the father who begot him, and the land which gave him birth, &c. &c.; they would not, however, have stood the least chance of being admitted to the opera for the melody of their vocal powers. Every time they had performed the circuit, they halted in

front of the Kaid or Governor and fired a salute. We also, to appear *à la mode*, fired about fifty rounds of ammunition.

On the morning of the 4th we reached Mascara, which is situated on a table land, between two small hills, commanding a view of the immense plains which run north-east and south-west several leagues in extent.

The present population may be about 15,000, of whom from five to six hundred are of the Jewish persuasion. Immediately on our arrival we were lodged in the house of one of the Jews, and the Governor, who is a particular friend of Mr. Mannucci, called and stated that he had ordered us to be quartered in that house as the best the Jews could afford; rooms were certainly abundant, but beds were out of the question, bedding being a luxury amongst the Jews here, few possessing any covering except a blanket for bed clothes, and many not even that.

The Emir's cousin resides in this town. He informed us that the Emir anxiously expected our arrival, and that a convoy had been taken a few days before going from Algiers to Blida. The French hobby of Algeria costs the French nation pretty dear; but it serves Louis Philippe to get

rid of the heroes of July, who if left in France might have taken it into their heads to proclaim another *citizen king*.

In consequence of to-day being so great a festival, there was nothing to be heard but the firing of muskets in all directions, and frequently the Arabs were to be seen amusing themselves by pointing their muskets at the Jews, who did not much relish this part of the diversion, as a stray musket might chance to be loaded with ball.

There is not much trade carried on here at present, the products of the country, such as camel's hair, wax, and wool, not affording a sufficient profit to convey over land to Tangiers or Tetaun; that is, in the opinion of the Moorish trader, who is content with nothing less than cent. per cent., and the Jews here are none of them sufficiently opulent or enterprising to undertake any trade of consequence. The wool of Algiers is of various quality. Towards Constantina it is much finer than in the western provinces; but so little attention is paid to the breeding of their flocks by the Arabs, that all qualities of wool are to be met with in the same tribe, some of which in England would bring two shillings and eightpence per pound, whilst other would not be worth more than eightpence. How-

ever, still an immense profit is to be made on it, as a fleece is to be had here at from fourpence to sixpence, weighing from two to four pounds, according to the fineness of the wool, and if it be wether or ewe wool, the former is always much more weighty than the latter. The duty on shipping wool in Morocco is five dollars per hundred weight, which added to the expense of land-carriage for four hundred miles, brings it to about fourpence per pound at Tetaun. Wax is to be procured here at about fifteen dollars per hundred weight. The Cashmere goat might be introduced into this country with every advantage, the climate from hence to the Taafna being peculiarly adapted for that animal. The common goat is sold here at about two shillings per head, full grown; and as there exists the most extraordinary circumstance in breeding this most valuable stock, viz., that in three crosses of the Cashmere buck with the common female, the wool or down becomes the same as that of the pure breed, it would be a most profitable speculation. A more strange circumstance is, that the progeny of the Cashmere buck are invariably white like the sire; each goat produces on an average ten to twelve ounces of down, which is worth 20s. per pound. The principal manu-

facture of this wool is into the celebrated Cashmere shawls. The breed is to be had at Paris ; it was exported from thence to New South Wales in 1830 by Mr. Edward Riley, and was found perfectly to answer in that climate, which is in the same latitude south as this is north.

On the 6th we received information that the part of the convoy taken at Blida consisted of seventeen mules and eleven horses, and seventeen prisoners and one hundred and seventeen heads had been brought in to the Sultan. This convoy had the ill-fortune to fall in with some of the tribes of the Metidja, who had a razia to revenge, and consequently gave little quarter. The Arabs did not state how many wounded the French had sustained, but an idea may be formed from the number of killed ; four to one is usually allowed in regular warfare, but here the number of killed often exceeds that of the wounded.

On the 7th we left Mascara for Tegedempt, travelling up a beautiful valley, whose rich soil appeared extremely favourable for the production of fools, if one might judge from the number of monuments erected to deceased Marabouts, or Saints. I counted no less than fifteen of these monuments in sight at one time. We remained

for the night at the foot of the mountains which bound the plain to the eastward, and on the morning of the 8th proceeded through a beautiful country of rich hilly land and valley. The hills were in many places under cultivation, yielding heavy crops of wheat and oats; maize being little cultivated till you come to the neighbourhood of Meliana. The French, we were informed, had marched a considerable force from Algiers on Meliana, and had attempted to surprise the Sultan's camp. They failed in their principal object, which was to take His Highness prisoner, but his determined courage and horsemanship were what saved him from this scrape. He was surrounded, and in the middle of a French square, who thought themselves sure of the one hundred thousand francs, which reward exists for the Emir's person whether dead or alive, but uttering his favourite expression, "Emshallah!"—with the will of God,—he gave his white horse the spur, and came over their bayonets, escaping without being wounded. He lost, however, about thirty of his body-guard, which is composed of his personal relations and intimate friends,—amongst these was his secretary. We had brought a beautiful silver-mounted Turkish scimitar for this latter worthy friend; but his

translation to the seventh heaven rendered our present unavailable. We gave it to Buccleigha, the Governor of Tegedempt, and it afterwards flourished in his hand when he made the *razia* on the descendants of Sodom and Gomorrah.

In the afternoon we reached the river Mina, which rises in the desert near Tissumsileh, and joins the Shelliff near Mozuna.

I imagine the name to have been given during the time the Spaniards were in possession of the country; as Mina in Spanish signifies *mine*, and copper and tin mines are abundant on this river. His Royal Highness, ever anxious to discover the resources which his territory possesses, procured from France a mineralogist named De Casse, who established an iron manufactory at Meliana, and succeeded in making about 40lbs. as a specimen of what the mines could produce. On the evacuation of Meliana, this was of course put a stop to; no ultimate benefit resulting from the experiment, except that, which may be derived at a future period. De Casse, on the breaking out of the war, turned Mussulman, and was baptized in due form by the name of Abd-el Kader. He afterwards attempted to make Congreve rockets; but unfortunately not hitting the right proportions, he

very nearly killed Bennallel and some of his staff. The Sultan then wished him to get up a cloth manufactory, which he had pretty nearly finished, when he fell a victim to the fever in November 1841.—*A Sherif, by adoption.*—I regretted his loss, being one who would have proved of great use in the Sultan's employ.

It was too late to think of reaching Tegedempt this evening; we therefore remained about three leagues from the town, with a son of Buccleigha, Mustapha, a young man, with whom I then commenced a friendship, which was afterwards increased by further acquaintance.

CHAPTER VI.

Arrival at Tegedempt—Description of Tegedempt—Musket manufactory—Six French killed by the Sultan—The Sultan's determination—Anecdote of female prisoners—The renegade Mustapha—Intendant General of Algiers—Anecdote of Abdel-Kader—African Lions—French Column leave Oran—Evacuation of Tegedempt—Burning of Tegedempt—Head of the Mina—French enter Tegedempt—Return to the Esmaila.

ABOUT 10 A.M. the following day we reached Tegedempt. This town (the present one) has been built by the Emir during the last few years, and is a most central point of his dominions, being eight days' journey from the frontiers of Morocco, and an equal number from Algiers. There formerly existed a large city here, one of the first ever built in Africa, and was governed by the Emir's ancestors; the ruins are situated about eight feet below the present surface of the earth, and are frequently discovered when laying the foundations for the present houses. An ample field exists here for the researches of the antiquary. A copper coin of the era of Augustus was brought me; the only antiquity I procured, having other affairs to occupy myself with. The present state of the king-

dom prevented my procuring many antiquities, which I could have done had I been more at leisure.

The present population of Tegedempt is only about five thousand, from two to three hundred of whom are of the Jewish persuasion,—these have been sent here by the Emir as a place of banishment, from Tlemecen and Mascara, as suspicious characters, likely to enter into communication with the French. The Governor, Hadgi Abd-el-Kader Buccleigha, met us at the government buildings, which are situated on a slight eminence to the eastward of the town, and are mostly enclosed within the walls of a quadrangle, about one hundred and fifty yards long, by nearly the same width. In this inclosure is the arsenal and also the judgment-hall, where the Sultan, as in times of the kings of old, administers judgment in person. The manufactory of muskets is at the distance of a few hundred yards from this enclosure, being situated on the border of the small mountain-stream which supplies Tegedempt with water, emptying itself into the Mina about half a mile below the town, and taking its rise where the Esmailla is situated, to the south-east of Tegedempt about a league. This manufactory was established ere the present war, by French workmen, whom the Emir pro-

cured from Paris, under the engagement that they should teach the Arabs to manufacture them themselves. This establishment is now principally conducted by the natives. The term for which the French mechanics had engaged themselves having expired last year, most of them returned to France, receiving a handsome present each, in addition to the amount due to them on their respective salaries. About eight muskets per day are all that have ever been made; but when we arrived the manufactory was not at work, in consequence of all the moveable part of the machinery, and the government stores, having been removed to the interior on the 7th, in expectation of the arrival of the French, the object of whose expedition was known to be the destruction of the public works here.

The site of the present town is on the slope of a hill, to the westward of the fort, and partly in the valley where this hill terminates. Its situation much resembles that of Estella, in Navarre, the seat of Charles the Fifth's short lived kingdom of Navarre. The houses are built of rough stone and lime, with terrace-roofs. The main street, which is in progress of building, has been laid out on the European plan, and is the only thing of the kind I have seen in Africa; it is about thirty feet wide.

There are two Cafés in the town ; the principal one is conducted by an Arab, who was at Paris with Ben-Aratch on his going there to ratify the treaty of Rashgoun in 1837, and astonishes the natives with his wonderful tales of the opera, the Palais Royal, &c. ; the French government having caused them to be shown the whole of the *lions* in that city. The evening of our arrival he went to the Esmaila for his lady, returning with her at sunset. She is a French lady, about sixteen, tolerably good-looking, and with all the amiability and lively character peculiar to the fair sex of her nation. She formed an agreeable contrast to Madelena ;—however, in justice to the fair Andalusians of my acquaintance, I must say that the latter was any thing but a favourable specimen of the Spanish belles, so famed for gaiety and diversion.

On the morning of the 17th, the governor called upon us in company with Gil Ali, the Sultan's most intimate friend and counsellor ; he shewed us a letter from the Sultan, giving an account of the attempt which had been made to surprise him ; he stated that he had lost about thirty of his body-guard, but that he had revenged their death, killing six with his own hand, and taking two prisoners, to

whom he had given quarter. They were also informed in the same letter, that he had taken several camel-loads of baggage, &c., and that one hundred and fifty heads had been brought in to him.

The Sultan, they informed me, was not disposed to admit any terms of peace, short of the evacuation of the whole of the territory of Algiers, except the town itself and Oran, and that he had written to Marshal Bugeaud, to say he allowed him to take Meliana, and that if he wished, he might also have Tlemecen and Mascara, as also Tegyedempt, but that his determination was to make war on them till he fell or they gave up their conquests, except the towns above mentioned. The system of warfare he has adopted must ultimately ensure him success ; Napoleon's campaigns in Russia, and those of the French army in Spain, ought to serve that nation as a warning of what fate awaits their armies in a country where the population is entirely against them ; in the former countries they had only to contend against the feelings of national independence, here they have, moreover, to contend against a religious fanaticism, which none can form an idea of except those, who have witnessed it. With the firm belief that pa-

radise is open to him who falls in battle, or takes away the life of a Christian, is it to be wondered at, that they rush headlong into danger, or give so little quarter? He who can boast of having cut off the head of an infidel, is looked upon as already booked in the muster-roll of the seventh heaven.

The unfortunate females taken by the Arabs had been all brought to the Esmaila, and placed under care of the Sultana. There had been six taken last year, who had all died of the fever which prevailed here during the summer, excepting one little girl, whom Mr. M.'s lady had taken charge of.—Maria, the name of the child in question, was only about nine years old; she had been taken with her two elder sisters in the neighbourhood of Algiers. Her father was one of those deluded settlers who had emigrated from his mother country, in the hopes of bettering his circumstances in the new colony, which was held out to them under the most flattering aspect. One night when he was absent from his cottage, it was attacked by the Arabs, the servant maid who commenced giving the alarm had her head cut off, the mother was felled by a blow from an Arab, but whether it was fatal or not, the children could not tell. The Arabs commenced plundering the house, but the shots which

some of them had incautiously fired, bringing the French to the spot, they mounted their horses, and each placing one of the girls on the saddle before him they came off at full speed, not taking time to see if they had killed the mother, or to bring off her head, which would have most probably been the case had they not had to make such a precipitate retreat. In the field of battle I have beheld my *compagnons* in arms fall around with unconcern, this is *fortune de guerre* ; the blood however runs chill in our veins when we hear of, or see such scenes of horror practised upon the innocent and defenceless.

In this barbarous transaction was concerned a renegade, now in the camp of Bennallel, named Mustapha. This traitor to his country and renegade to his religion, is notorious for the number of heads he has brought in during the campaign ; he once brought in those of two young ladies, whom he and another French deserter had surprised in a country-house belonging to their father, and which was situated near the *maison carée*. The particulars of this shocking murder the pen would blush to relate ; from a wild Arab they might have been expected, but from Europeans, and above all, a Frenchman, such atrocities would not be looked

for. Yet the daring deeds performed by this vagabond cause him to be so far tolerated by Bennallel, that he is allowed to mess with his servants.

The usual style of passing the dishes first from the Bey to his personal staff, and from thence to the menials in his service, frequently caused Mustapha to come off with short commons. One day, however, he hit upon an expedient which secured him a good dinner, which was as follows: just as the Kalifa was seated to his repast, a cat jumped into the tent with its ears tied together, and a devil of wet gunpowder fastened to them, with one of the same description to its tail; to avoid having their clothes burnt, the tent was immediately evacuated by its inmates; the renegade availed himself of the confusion which he had created, to appropriate to his own purposes a fine dish of koskouso and two boiled fowls. On the return of the party to the tent, the dish was missed, and search being made, the individual in question was found behind a bank, doing full justice to the plate intended for his master. Being brought before him to answer the charge of purloining the dinner, and introducing Miss Puss in so unceremonious and unwelcome a manner, he stated that he had done it for the purpose of securing a good

dinner for once, as in general the plates were so well demolished before it came to his turn to partake of their contents that there was scarcely anything left. Bennallel was so much amused at the fellow's impudence, that he gave him two dollars, telling him that after a good meal he would also require some coffee to digest it.

On the 14th poor Maria was sent to Meliana, to be given up with the other prisoners in the exchange which now took place.

Here I cannot omit mentioning a circumstance which reflects the highest credit on his Royal Highness, as it shows the noble sentiments of this youthful hero. Mr. Mason, an intendant-general in the Frency army, having been taken prisoner near Algiers, by a party of the Arabs, on one of their frequent visits almost to the gates of the town, was brought before the Emir, who was so much pleased with the noble conduct of this gentleman, who although a prisoner, and knowing that his head hung upon the slightest signal which the Emir might give to take it off, refused to give his Highness any information relative to the intended operations of the French army. His Highness admired him for this manly conduct, and not only allowed him every comfort in his power,

but gave him horses to amuse himself riding or shooting during the time he remained at Taasa, to which depôt he was sent; and now no Arab prisoner of equal rank being among those whom they had to exchange, he sent him to Algiers with the rest, stating that he would not do him the insult to take one in his place who was his inferior in rank.

I had often heard of lions being numerous in this part of Africa, but had never seen any till to-night, when I saw two of them by moon-light at a short distance from the government building. I called Hadgi Mahomet, and pointing them out to him, he laughed, saying in broken Spanish, that there were more lions here than sheep; in fact, from the frequent roarings which we heard of these nocturnal visitors, he appeared to be borne out in his statement.

It appears that Abd-el-Kader, like Araoun-al-Raschid in the Arabian Nights' entertainments, frequently goes about in disguise, in order to inform himself of the actual state of affairs; one night he came from the Esmailla to Tegedempt alone, to ascertain the correctness of a report which had been made, that it was unsafe to be in the streets after nightfall. He remained walking

about the town till near midnight ; on his return he had to pass the brook of Tegedempt, and it being the hour of prayer, he halted to perform his devotions, and was washing his feet in the stream, when a huge lion made his “handsome bow before him,” doubtless having just dropped in like Paul Pry to make a call. The Sultan met the lion’s stare, and with a frown calling him a Kilb-ben-el-Kilb, for intruding upon him at so unseasonable an hour, bade him begone for a kaffer ; strange to say, the lord of the forest cowed his head before the defender of the faithful, and turning tail walked off. By the Arabs this was considered as a miracle wrought by the prophet in favour of his *protégé* Abd-el-Kader, who is frequently styled by his subjects “the beloved of Mahomet.” I should, however, be more inclined to place this circumstance to the generosity of this noble animal, who seldom attacks the human species unless driven so to do by extreme hunger. The Arabs say that the females of their tribes, if a lion makes his appearance at their tents, have only to show him their breasts, when he invariably hangs down his head and walks away ; although a traveller, and used to strange stories, I did not exactly give credit to this assertion.

On the 15th we received information that the French column had again left Oran, commanded by General Le Blanc ; Lamoricière, our friend who followed us to the desert, it was stated, had been wounded in the first expedition, and other reports stated him to be ill. We received information the same night, that they had proceeded north of Mascara, and intended coming here ; as this was expected, every thing had been prepared for the evacuation of the town, and the Governor proceeded accordingly to remove what still remained belonging to government out of the fort with the utmost celerity and order, and with such silence, that although upwards of a hundred men were employed loading the camels, not a voice was to be heard except in a whisper. For celerity and dispatch in shifting quarters the Arab soldiers are certainly the most expert I ever met with : the contrast between the swearing of the soldiers and muleteers in the Spanish service, when employed in a similar *déménagement*, struck me forcibly.

On the 17th we were informed that the Oran column had halted two days' march to the north-west, which led me to suppose that they were waiting to make a combined movement with the column which left Meliana. Three armourers,

deserters from Cherchell, came over to-day ; they had come here with the hopes of being employed in the musket manufactory, but they brought no intelligence of any consequence as to the enemy's movements.

On the 20th we received the news that the Duke of Nemours was with the Oran column, and that it had arrived within eight leagues of us. On the morning of the same day we left Tegelempt, with the intention of leaving M.'s wife and the females with the Sultan's family, and proceeding to join the Sultan, whose camp was two days' distant, in direction of Meliana. On reaching the Esmaila we were recommended by the treasurer, Ben Faja, to return to the town, and bringing the whole of the baggage which we had left with Buccleigha, to place it in his charge ; but he advised us not to go in search of the Sultan, as, should the French enter Tegelempt, he would most probably come this way himself. Taking his advice, we went back to the town in the evening.

Early on the morning of the 21st, all was bustle and confusion, news having reached us that the French might probably arrive in the course of the day. It was now every one for himself, and all were busy loading camels, mules, and horses. The

camels which had been sent us not being sufficient to carry the whole of our goods, several packages were left behind and stolen by the Arabs. Those who had nothing of their own to encumber their flight, took advantage of the confusion to appropriate to themselves the property of their neighbours. A strong party of soldiers was sent to protect us, otherwise I have no doubt the numerous Arabs of the desert, who now appeared in search of plunder, would soon have eased us of any trouble with respect to our luggage, and have left us in a fit state for the paradise of our forefather Adam. Several shots were fired outside the fort, and Mr. M., who had gone out to see the state of affairs, returned, telling us that it would be most advisable to keep our arms in our hands, as there was no telling how soon we might have occasion for them. Two Arabs had already been killed in disputes about animals to carry their effects, every one seizing the first beast that came in his way, the strongest being the best man. Amongst other things which were left to their fate, I perceived a small barrel of pickled salmon, and fearing that we might go minus dinner in the hasty retreat, I took it under my particular charge, placing it before me on the saddle.

We at last managed to reach the outside of the fort with our baggage, &c., in marching order. The sight we now beheld reminded me of our village-burning expeditions under Generals O'Donnel and Leon, in the Spanish war. The various groups of fugitives were slowly winding up the mountain-track which leads to the road of the Zaara, casting many an anxious look behind at their burning houses, which they had set fire to in imitation of the brave inhabitants of Moscow on the French invasion; the Arab soldiers, some galloping to and fro to keep order, whilst others, coolly leaning on the pommel of the saddle, appeared to enjoy the flames which now ascended in all directions from the houses of the town, would have formed a *glowing* scene for the pencil of a painter. In the afternoon the work of destruction was completed by the burning of the fort and musket manufactory, leaving a heap of smoking ashes and ruins to greet the triumphal entry of the *grande armée*, as the French vainly termed this expedition, which was commanded by the royal Dukes of Orleans, Nemours, and Aumale, consisting of eighty thousand men.

In December of this year, from General Bugeaud's own statement to the minister at war, it appears

that only four thousand men remained fit for active service in the field ; nineteen out of twenty are said to be in the hospitals. How many have had their heads dangling from the saddle-bow of the Arabs, or how many have fallen victims to the climate, is not stated, but may be surmised at. The loss which the destruction of Tegedempt may amount to is about 20,000 dollars (that is to the Sultan), and the obtaining this sacrifice on his part will, no doubt, have cost the French government some millions of francs.

We soon reached the Esmaila, and when we had pitched our tents, Mrs. M. went to see the Sultana. This lady is called always by the Arabs *Zulieka*, the Arab for Julia. We lost an entire camel load of goods on the way to the camp ; the animal knocked up, and was robbed by the Arabs ; however, after our return to Tegedempt, every thing was brought back ; for, had the least article missing been found in possession of an Arab, he would have soon come under the hands of the executioner, robbery being invariably punished with death in the Emir's territory.

On the 22nd we proceeded to the head of the Mina, a most romantic and beautiful spot ; it rises

from two large fountains which rush from an aperture in the side of the hill, and the mouths even are a yard wide each. The immense quantity of water which issues from them soon forms a considerable stream. On the 24th we proceeded to the outskirts of the desert. An action took place on the 22nd between the troops of Buccleigha and the French; many were killed and wounded on both sides. The Sultan reached the neighbourhood of Tegelempt on the morning of the 24th, and although he had with him 20,000 men, would not come to a general engagement. Some skirmishing, however, took place. Six wounded Frenchmen were brought to our camp on the night of the 25th, having been left behind to their fate. One died from his wounds the same night, but the rest recovered.

The French entered the ruins of Tegelempt this day, leaving it again in direction of Mascara on the 26th. We immediately received information of their having left, and accordingly were soon in full march to return to our old position at the place where the Esmaila was situated before. On our way, we passed by the ruins of Tissumseli, nothing of which is however visible except the foundations

and part of the walls of what appear to have been an ancient Roman fort.

On the 27th we reached our destination, having encamped for the night of the 26th at a short distance from the ruins I have mentioned above.

CHAPTER VII.

Noble exploit of the royal Dukes—Burning of Taasa—Benabou—Evacuation of Mascara—Arrival at the camp of Hadgi Mustapha—Position of the French in Algiers—Tombs of the Sultan's family—Visit to the Aga of Mascara—Reception given us by His Royal Highness—The Sultan's Origin—History of his family—Noble conduct of the Sultan's father—First steps taken by the Sultan on assuming command—Treaty of Taafna—The seven Kalifats of Algiers—Manner of appointing Kuids, &c.—Proclamation of 1838—Forged passports made by the French—Bennallel commences the present war.

ON the morning of the 28th we visited the ruins of Tegedempt. The only signs to be seen of a field of battle, were two dead horses and the headless body of a Frenchman. In the Spanish war, when any particular action was gained, or town taken from the enemy, the army concerned in the operation was rewarded by a medal to commemorate the victory. Should Louis Philippe reward his brave troops with a medal for this expedition, I would recommend its being a medal bearing on the one side "Tegedempt, 25th of May," and on the other a dog in the last agonies, suspended from the gate

of a castle ; which would be most appropriate, as, not finding in the town bipeds on whom to vent their desire of slaughter (one man excepted, who from old age was unable to make his escape, and was inhumanly butchered), they put to death all the unfortunate dogs to be found ; I counted fifty dead carcasses on the field, near the town, and in the streets. If Don Quixote's battle with the sheep is justly celebrated as one of the gallant knight's most renowned achievements, how much more so ought this of the royal Dukes to be, fought with the canine species. An animal like an innocent one of the fleecy tribe is not to be dreaded ; but dogs are sometimes fearful enemies. Don Quixote, however, gained his victory with the sole assistance of his esquire, Sancho Panza, whilst the noble Duke had about eight thousand brave moustaches, cavalry, infantry, and artillery, to enable them to accomplish this feat of arms, which *posterity*, I have no doubt, will consider as having added laurels to those already gained by the French army in the fields of Africa. The Oran column was under the command of General Bugeaud and the Duke of Nemours ; that of Algiers under General Guinguet, accompanied by the Duke d'Aumale, and I believe also the Duke of Orleans.

The town of Taasa was also entered on the 24th by the Algiers' column, but it, like Tegyedempt, had been reduced to ashes by the Sultan's order, consequently the Duke d'Aumale and General Guinguet found nothing to greet their arrival but smoke and ashes, and therefore made a retrograde march on Meliana on the 27th.

On the 31st my friend M. and myself rode into Tegyedempt to see Buccleigha, and to ascertain if any answer had been received to a communication which we had made through him to his Royal Highness, requesting that he would fix a spot where we could have the pleasure of paying our respects to him; and an answer had arrived, requesting us to repair to his camp, which was near Mascara. The Kalifa, Ben-el-Bekir, Buccleigha, Gil-Ali, Ben-Faja, and Benabou, the intendant-general of the household of the Emir, were seated on the ruins of the fort, holding a council relative to the re-building of the town. The fort was already commenced, several hundred Arabs being employed clearing away the ruins. They did not appear the least concerned at having been under the necessity of burning the town, remarking, with a laugh, that the French could not burn their tents.

Benabou, the intendant-general, has not been

introduced to the reader's acquaintance. As he is no inconsiderable personage at the Emir's court, a slight description of him will not be misplaced.—He is of the darkest sable hue, about sixty, grey-headed, and near six feet high. He speaks through his nose, in consequence of an unfortunate accident which occurred to him in the action of the Taafna. The Emir's horse was shot under him, and Benabou being rather slow in dismounting, to give his to His Royal Highness, his movements were accelerated by a blow from Bouhamidi's fowling-piece, which brought his face to a most decided level; knocking at the same time two of his teeth down his throat. Poor Benabou came off the steed without requiring any one to hold the stirrup.

We left the Esmaila for Mascara on the 1st of June; and on reaching Tegedempt the Governor's brother came to accompany us. Our horses, from the continued travelling, were unable to make long stages, we consequently did not reach Mascara till the 3rd.

This town was evacuated the latter end of last month, by the Emir; and the French had entered it on the 1st of June, and left it yesterday, on their return to Mozaganem, leaving a garrison in the town of one thousand infantry and sixty cavalry.

We passed within musket-shot of the town; but not a soul was to be seen, as, if they attempted to make their appearance, some Arab would most probably have galloped up and had a shot at them. This they can do with little danger to themselves, as their plan of charging is as follows:—They set their horse to full speed, laying themselves down on his neck, so that only his head is to be seen; when they arrive at point blank distance, they rise up in their stirrups and fire their piece, and wheeling to the left about, they are out of sight like lightning, in the same manner as they came, being protected from receiving any dishonourable wound, from the immense back which all Arab saddles have, and gives them a most uncouth appearance; but for comfort they are superior to our European ones, being almost as easy as if one were in a chair.

On our arrival at the camp of the Kalifa of Mascara, Hadgi Mustapha, who is also brother-in-law to the Sultan, we found that he kept a strict blockade on the town, having upwards of a hundred videttes placed within sight of the walls, in all directions, lest any of the French should attempt to come out on foraging parties. Some severe skirmishing had taken place on the French leaving

Mascara, with the Emir's personal escort and militia, or volunteer forces, who followed the convoy up on their way to Mozaganem. One hundred and fifty was the return given in to the Emir of dead bodies of the French which had been discovered by the Arabs. Many of these had been buried by their own army; but the graves had been dug so shallow, that they were easily discovered. I imagine the reason the French have left so small a force in Mascara is to be attributed to their wish to economize the bringing convoys with supplies to them: the smaller the force is, of course, the longer will the provisions last; and the obtaining animals at Oran for the transport of them is not the least of the inconveniences suffered by the French.

It will be hereafter seen that the Emir's plan of operations is to allow them to occupy all the large towns, as a means of harassing them by marches through a country of which they only command possession of so much, as their *columns* actually bivouac on, or the sentries posted on the walls of the towns they hold, can command by their fire; and, as will be seen by what I have said of Mascara, not even that always.

A negro soldier of Hadgi Mustapha's killed two

Frenchmen, on the 2nd, with his own hand. The Emir, who was an eye-witness of his bravery, rewarded him on the field of battle by presenting him with his sword, and the cross of the crescent, the only military order in the service, and which is never awarded except for a very distinguished action. The black was presented to us, and was as proud of the honour conferred on him as if he had been made a K.G.C.B.

We were advised by Hadgi Mustapha to wait here for the Sultan, as he would probably arrive in the course of the day. In the afternoon we received a note from the Emir, stating that he was on his way to Tegedempt, *via* Mozuna; and as he purposed remaining some days stationary to return there as soon as possible.

On the morning of the 4th, having received letters to the Aga, or Colonel of militia, who commanded the Sultan's own tribe, situated about two leagues from here, we commenced our journey back to head quarters. We passed the burying-place of the Sultan's family, in which are three mausoleums, such as are usually erected to the Marabouts, or Saints. One of these is that of his father; another, of one of his uncles; and the third, of his elder brother,—the two latter having died *mou-*

chaied, that is, in the Holy War. I was struck by seeing several conical heaps of stones, denoting the recent graves of those who had been destined to Paradise in the late skirmishes; twenty-five of the Sultan's tribe were amongst this number. The total loss of the Emir, as near as I could ascertain, was from seventy to eighty killed. All children of the Sultan's tribe who die before they are weaned, are allowed to be buried in his father's mausoleum; from which it would seem that, in this particular, the creed of Mahomet is similar to that of Christ,—“Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven.”

On our arrival at the Aga's tents we partook of a repast of koskouso, boiled fowls, and *agua ardiente*, which we had been some time a stranger to, as it was not to be procured for love or money; the Jews, who alone distil it, having lost all their large vessels in which to prepare the liquor for the still, during the run away from Tegedempt. We found the Jew who had been our host in Mascara here. The poor devil was in sad tribulation; his sister had died from the effects of a miscarriage, caused by the fright she had received on the evacuation of Mascara, and his wife was confined to her bed with fever.

We left our friend the Aga in the afternoon, but did not reach the Esmaila till the morning of the 6th, when we had the satisfaction to find that His Royal Highness had arrived before us. Having put ourselves in visiting order, we proceeded to have an interview with him. He received us in the Treasurer's tent, after performing the ceremony of touching his hand and kissing our own; a custom I like much better than that of kissing the hand of another, although it be that of a fair lady,—even the *once* beautiful Christina,—the only European sovereign to whom I had the honour of paying this homage.

His Highness received Mr. M. as an old friend, begging us to seat ourselves alongside him. He expressed his high esteem for the nation to which I belonged, and his pleasure at my safe arrival. After a long conversation, it was determined that my services would be most effectual to His Highness by remaining at the Esmaila, where information was sent from all quarters, and I could be enabled to judge better of the plan to be adopted for the organization, &c. of his regular forces; by becoming acquainted with the actual state of affairs in his kingdom, as well military as civil.

Amongst the most distinguished of the Maho-

medan faith in the present day are ranked Mehemet Ali and the Emir, Abd-el-Kader ; and the former, from the continued intercourse with his territory, is generally known, whilst the latter is comparatively unknown, from the difficulty which exists in travelling through the empire of Morocco ; a brief history of the life of this youthful hero will be interesting to most, military men in particular. The circumstance of his having been enabled to make head for so long a time against the powerful armies and superior tactics of so enlightened a nation as the French, must convince every one at all conversant in military affairs, that in him are united no common degree of military talent, as well as political judgment.

This Prince is descended from one of the most ancient families in Arabia ; his ancestors, ere the times of the Romans, reigned in the territory. His Highness is about five feet seven inches in height, fair complexion, light blue eyes, oval features, and a countenance at the same time indicating intellect and benignity. He possesses a most strong natural talent, and a coolness in judgment and action, which render him capable of conceiving and executing the most difficult enterprises. Had he been favoured with the education of Napoleon, he

would have become his rival in the pages of history. His dress is similar to that worn by most of the Arab Chiefs : a white bernous, with large silk tassels on the hood and in front ; over which is placed the black bernous, made of camel's hair. The common cord of black or white camel's hair, wreathed in several folds round the head of the white bernous, denotes the religion to which he belongs. Few turbans are worn here ; but those of the blood of the prophet have a green cord, in lieu of the white or black ones worn indiscriminately by all the Faithful. By them he is looked up to, as the defender of their religion, and consequently as the chief of the Holy War ; in which light, the present contest with the French is considered by the whole of Arabia, and I may say by all believers in the prophet.

On the taking of Algiers, the Arab tribes being released from the yoke of their Ottoman rulers, each took up arms under their respective Marabouts, or Saints, to defend their faith, their independence, and their native soil, against the new invaders of their country, and enemies of their religion. The most enlightened amongst the chiefs soon became aware, that to make any effectual resistance against the common enemy, it would be

necessary to appoint a person to the command of the force, which could be united under the sacred banner of the prophet. The family of Abd-el-Kader being the most ancient of Arab descent, several of the different chiefs in the neighbourhood of Mascara proceeded to his father's residence, which is about twelve miles distant to the south-east of that town, and begged that he would once more raise the ancient standard of Arab freedom, which had for such a lapse of years been partially subjected to the Roman and Ottoman powers. This venerable patriarch, then near seventy years old, conceiving that the duties which would devolve upon him, were he to accept the important command thus offered him, would be more than his constitution could support, declined the offer, but with a patriotism which did honour to his judgment, candidly told the deputation that his advanced stage of life deprived him of that energy which would be requisite to fulfil so important a trust, and that the only one capable of serving the national cause, was his third son Abd-el-Kader, the two eldest, said the venerable sire, are not of equal capacity, I have observed and studied their character ; in the one I offer you, are alone united the qualities you and the nation require for a leader ; he has performed the

pilgrimage of Mecca ; and to the strictest religious principles, he unites youth, activity, valour and intelligence. The deputation finding that the old man was determined not to become their commander-in-chief, and convinced that in electing his third son, he only had in view the welfare of his country, unanimously elected the youthful chieftain to unfurl the banner of the prophet, and raise the standard of ancient Arabian independence.

The first step of the youthful commander was to demand a certain number of cavalry from each of the tribes composing the union which had been formed ; these amounted to about four hundred. With this small force he commenced by making attacks on the different detached parties of the French ; and immediately dispatching circulars to the different tribes far and near, he informed them that God and Mahomet had called him to the command of the faithful to defend his religion and country against the infidels, and solicited them to come and place themselves under his banner. The Mussulman faith inculcating the belief that he who falls in the field of battle in defence of his religion, is immediately translated to the acme of a *true* believer's hopes, viz. that paradise, where sixty bright hours await his arrival, welcoming the brave warrior to

their arms in a land flowing with milk and honey, in which fairy land he arrives without the danger of passing the bridge of el Harack, on so narrow a footing as that of a camel's hair, where, should the foot slip, he falls into the infernal pit ; it is not to be wondered at that he soon found himself at the head of a numerous army. The French were at this time in possession of Tlemecen : after repeated skirmishes a general action took place near the river Taafna ; although the field of battle remained on that occasion in possession of the French, it was so severely contested by the Arabs, that general Bugeaud wisely considering that such another victory would be equal to a defeat, concluded a treaty—vide Appendix No. 1.—with his Royal Highness at Rashgoun.

On the 24th of the month of Safar 1253, corresponding to the 30th of May 1837 of the Christian era, Abd-el-Kader, being thus recognized as Emir, an Arab title which signifies in Arabic religious and lay chief, something more than prince and less than king, shortly afterwards assumed the regal power by the title of Sultan, and as such he was recognized by the whole of the territory from the gates of Oushdah to the river Merjerda. Being freed from foreign war, the Sultan

now proceeded to establish every thing in his kingdom upon the European system: he divided it into provinces, each under its respective kalifa or lieutenant general; the provinces are as follows, viz. that of Tlemecen, of which the celebrated Bouhamidi was appointed Kalifa, capital Tlemecen; 2nd, Mascara, Kalifa Hadgi Mustapha, capital Mascara; 3rd, Meliana, Kalifa Bennallel, capital Meliana; 4th, Algiers, Kalifa Benselm, capital Dellyz; 5th, Constantina, Bercani was made Kalifa of the district of Constantina, of which Setif was made the capital, (for the present) and el Houroubi was given from Setif to the river Mejerda. To these, in May last, Tegedempt was made into a beyship or kalifat, and the zaara, a desert, to mount Lowat, was included in it. Ben Bekir received this as a reward for the important services he had rendered in the taking of Illmandia or Gojeda, a large town in the desert, from which, in 1838, two hundred camel loads of gold were brought by the Emir.

The Arab tribes in the neighbourhood of Tennez are commanded by the Arab chief Ben Aratch; each of the seven Kalifas has a regiment of regular infantry under his command, consisting of from twelve to thirteen hundred men, and to these is added a company of *renegades*, deserters from the

French service ; some of these companies contain upwards of two hundred men ; of regular cavalry each Bey has generally from four to five hundred with him. The boundaries of each province have been laid down as accurately as circumstances will permit, and according to the extent of each, a certain number of agas or colonels of militia are appointed ; these, on their district being summoned to arms, repair to the appointed rendezvous, each bringing with him provisions for the number of days their services are expected to be required. The Kalifas have the appointing of the Kaids or Mayors of all the villages, which however are obliged to be confirmed by the Emir. The Governors of the towns are nominated by the Emir himself, and their inauguration to office is made before the Cadi, when they take the customary oaths, and are then invested with the scarlet cloak, the insignia of office.

Any complaint against the Governor of a town must be made through the Kalifa to the Emir, or to the Emir in person, who always sits in judgment from one till three o'clock, like the good kings of olden time. Should their complaints be well founded they are sure of redress, but if not they are equally sure of punishment ; which pre-

vents His Highness's time being taken up with frivolous complaints. The next care of the Emir was to establish a mint. Numerous issues of silver coin have been made. They are in silver, of the value of 2s. 8*d.*, 1s. 4*d.*, 4*d.* and 2*d.*, and in copper, 20 to the 2*d.* piece, like small wafers. The seal manual, and the year of their being manufactured, being marked on each.

A musket and iron manufactory were also established, but have been destroyed in the present war; and a cloth manufactory was in progress, but the death of De Casse put a stop to this for the present.

His Royal Highness issued a proclamation in 1838, offering land to all who chose to settle in his dominions, being anxious to introduce European industry into his territory; and I must say, that in his dominions a Christian is sure of entire protection, which is not the case with any one even attempting to pass through the territory of Morocco. The French government finding that it was the Emir's intention to put his kingdom into such a state of improvement, as would in a short time render him a powerful and wealthy sovereign, sought by infringing the treaty of Taafna under every possible manner, to bring on a fresh

rupture with him. By the seventh article of that treaty he was to be furnished with whatever arms and ammunition he required, notwithstanding which, his oukil or agent at Algiers was put in irons, and sent a prisoner to France for having furnished the Emir with those supplies which he had a right to demand by the treaty, and also for having sent over to him some mechanics, being likewise an infraction of the tenth article of that treaty; marshal Vallée was the Governor of Algiers; the Emir complained to the French government of the breach of the treaty, and received for answer, that the marshal had unlimited authority to act according to his *own judgment*. The Duke of Orleans also, wishing to pay a visit of *reconnoissance* to Constantina with as little danger as possible, caused a Jew of the name of Buderan, a native of Oran, to make a seal of the Emir's, which was placed on passports made for the purpose, and presented to the Kaids of the territory through which the French troops were in progress. The deception being found out, the Arabs attacked them in all directions. The Sultan still was unwilling to commence hostilities, and assembled his Kalifas, to hold a council as to what ought to be done; one was absent, Bennallel, who thought,

that it was useless debating any thing about the matter ; and whilst the Sultan was consulting, he attacked a French convoy between Meliana and Algiers, and put all debates as to war or peace at an end, by taking off some two hundred heads. Who were the first aggressors in this case ? facts say for themselves ; marching a force through the country of an ally without sanction is a declaration of war. But when it was done under such aggravating circumstances as the present, when forged passports were made use of in addition to this breach of faith, war was inevitable, and in my opinion Bennallel was perfectly justified in commencing active operations.

CHAPTER VIII.

Debates as to the retaking of Mascara—Mr. Nicolas Mannucci arrives via Tennez—Sultan's opinion as to the War—Secret Mission of Mr. Mannucci—Attempt made to rob the Sultan's tent—Loss sustained by the French near Mascara—Execution of a robber—Justice of his sentence—Spartan customs of the Arabs—The Sultana—Punishment for supplying Provisions to the Enemy—Sortie made from Mascara—Trade to Tombuctoo and the Zaara—Signification of a Razia—Irregular forces called out—Mines of Taasa—Sortie from Mozaganem—Arab pits for grain.

JUNE 8th: great debates have been held as to the retaking Mascara, most of the Emir's personal staff being of opinion that it would be advisable to attempt its recapture; the Sultan alone will not listen to any proposal of the kind; it being contrary to the plan of warfare which he has adopted. I offered, in case that the determination should be come to of assaulting the town, to take the command of the affair, and merely required the regulars of Tlemecen and Mascara, answering with my head for a favourable result. The points of attack

had been already reconnoitered by volunteers of Hadgi Mustapha's personal escort, who had penetrated into the town during the night and retired unseen. Had this plan been adopted, I principally depended on the company of Mascara renegades, who consist mostly of Spaniards, deserters from the foreign legion ; forty of these came over to the Emir, in complete *état de guerre*, under their sergeant, having first *shot* their officers.

On the 9th Mr. Nicolas Mannucci, brother to my friend Mr. Noel Mannucci, arrived *via* Tennez ; he had come with the sanction of the French government, bringing a cargo of goods from Marseilles, in a vessel of thirty-five tons, and was towed most of the way to cape Tennez by a French man-of-war steamer ; the object of his visit was to induce H. R. H. to propose to the French government a submission, on which a treaty of peace favourable to the Emir was to have been concluded. He required that His Highness should *nominally* lay down his arms, but that he would purchase as many as thirty thousand, giving them to the French government who would pay six dollars each for them ; this being a mere *ruse de guerre*, to content the French nation, and save the *gloire nationale* ; when all the territory taken

during the present war would be given up again to the Emir, and he would in reality have suffered nothing except in point of honour. The Sultan, as I expected, would not hear of any thing of the kind, stating that to give up his arms in any way was contrary to the laws of the Koran, and to his honour. "What benefit," said his Royal Highness, "do the French derive from the towns which they occupy? They have Meliana, Blida, and Mascara, and they will in all probability have Tlemecen. Do they reap the crops in the neighbourhood of those towns? Are they not confined to the walls of them, and obliged to bring all supplies from the sea-port towns, which they have so long usurped, with large escorts; the loss which they sustain on their march being always considerable, and the expense great. On my part the war costs me little expense, and finally they will be glad to leave a soil which is productive to them of more expense than profit!" To this reasoning Mr. Nicolas Mannucci could not bring forward any argument which carried weight, and therefore deemed it best for the present to seem convinced of the Emir's being in the right.

This gentleman had been intrusted with a secret commission by the French government, which was

to induce the Kalifas to abandon the Emir; offering, if this could be effected, to acknowledge each Kalifa independent in his own district; but he never attempted any thing of the kind, fully convinced that the least proposal to this effect which he might make to any of them would cost him his head; all these generals being too much devoted to the Emir to listen to such infamous treason. I was aware of his mission, so was the Emir and Bennallel, but he had merely received instructions to see what was to be done; and his brother Mr. Noel gave me the most solemn assurances that he had no intention of attempting any thing of the kind, but to make peace if possible on terms of advantage to the Emir: as I also conceived that an honourable one would be more advantageous to the Emir at present, I cordially offered my co-operation to effect the most desirable object.

On the 10th, sixteen prisoners arrived at Tege-dempt, who had been taken in the neighbourhood of Meliana, fourteen had been taken at Mascara, on the first and second, making a total of thirty; these were forwarded to Taafna to join the five taken at Tegedempt on the 25th of last month.

On the 15th, I had an interview with His High-

ness, previous to his intended departure, which was fixed for the following day, as the French column had left Mozaganem a few days before, and His Highness made a point of always accompanying them to pick up stragglers.

The Sultan took his departure with his personal escort on the 16th, and the same day Mr. M. purchased *the ruins* of a house in Tegedempt, and the Sultan ordered that the lime required for building it should be furnished by Government. Information was received that the French column had burned several Arab villages between Tlemecen and Mascara, in order to fill up the official Gazettes.

On the 17th, they had reached the camp of the Aga of Mascara, where the Sultan's tribe resided ; on their approach, the Arabs had however decamped with all their flocks and herds, leaving the whole of the plains in possession of the French, who had commenced placing the town of Mascara in a defensive state.

18th. This evening about seven o'clock some Arabs of the tribe of el Harar, a powerful one belonging to the desert, containing about 15,000 souls, made an attempt to rob the treasury tent, but were discovered, and the whole of the Esmaila was silently on the alert.

About twelve at night a shot was fired from the Sultan's tent, this is the signal given when a courier arrives from the Emir. I heard from the sound that it was ball-cartridge, but as they are noways particular whether they fire with ball or blank, the circumstance did not strike me as anything extraordinary; however, on getting up I found that an Arab of the desert had been wounded by one of the Sultan's black slaves, within the abattis of branches of trees which surrounds the tent occupied by the Sultan's wife. He was brought before the *privy* council in the morning, and it appeared from his statement that he had first come to our tents, when finding us on the alert, he had gone to that of the treasury; having failed in that attempt he with four others who accompanied him retired till midnight, when they made an essay on the Sultan's tents: he stated that his intention was not to rob that where the Sultan's family were, but one along side it; adding, with the greatest *sang froid*, "What an unlucky dog I am!" At the burning of Tegydempt my comrades and myself robbed every thing that came to our hands without molestation; but now it appears that my time has arrived. I saw the black *dog*, but in the dark as he had on a black bernous I thought he was a

jackass, more particularly as he was on *all fours*, and had no suspicion of him, till he pulled the trigger and I fell." He was condemned to be hung, and the sentence remitted for the approval of His Highness.

On the 20th, two commissioners sent by the Bishop of Algiers arrived; they brought as a present, a clock and a pair of chandeliers. The object of their embassy was to treat of peace; but the Emir, as I have already stated, had no inclination that way, and they returned without being enabled to effect anything. On the 17th the troops of Bouhamidi had surprised an advanced post of the French, taking five prisoners, and bringing in twelve heads. On the 18th the French column returned to Mascara, and employed themselves sending out strong foraging parties; they were however attacked by the Emir's troops, and having suffered considerable loss, were obliged to confine themselves strictly to the town. Six Arabs in the service of the French were taken prisoners, and suffered decapitation as traitors. Skirmishes take place daily; in one the other day near Meliana, Bennallel's troops had the advantage. The loss sustained by the Arabs is difficult to be ascertained, as they carefully conceal it. That of

the French in the last two actions was estimated at two hundred. In the affair at Mascara, the Arabs attacked with great determination, and the French defended themselves with equal valour.

On the 23rd, the robber who was taken on the 18th was executed in the *sota* or market-place of Tegedempt before an immense crowd of spectators. Two thousand dollars were offered by his tribe that his life might be spared, but without effect. Having said his creed, and remarked coolly that it was rather hard to die such a dog's death, he allowed the rope to be adjusted round his neck, and was hauled up to a post about eight feet high. After about two hours the body was taken down, and placed on its feet between two posts about three feet apart, and an arm tied to each of them, remaining there for several days as a terror to others.

On the 24th two of the three who escaped were taken, and a *razia* being made on the village to which they belonged, the whole of their sheep, cattle, &c., were confiscated, and brought into the Esmaila. It will by many be considered an injustice to have punished the tribe for a fault committed by a part of it. Gil Ali's reasoning on the case, when I remarked to him that such was my

opinion, was as follows : " The whole tribe," said he, " are guilty ; inasmuch as the Sheik of it ought to know the evil-disposed in it, and chastise them if they do not amend their lives. Should the punishment which he may award them not be sufficient for the purpose, he should bring them before the Kalifa of his district, whose powers are sufficient to enforce order and do justice upon all offenders. That the Sheik failed in his duty is evident ; that the whole tribe are guilty of harbouring, and by not giving information of their evil life, thus sanctioning their depredations, is equally apparent, and were not an example made in such a situation as the country is in at present, there is no telling to what extent these depredations might be committed." There was great force in the argument brought forward by this venerable old man, who from his wisdom and sagacity justly possesses the entire confidence of the Emir. That the latter is under the necessity of severe measures to maintain order and morality amongst the mountain tribes, who are robbers from their infancy, will not be doubted by any one who has ever visited this part of Africa.

Mr. Nicolas Mannucci and myself were taking our afternoon's siesta in our tent, when we over-

heard the following conversation between two Arab women outside. It will give some idea of the Spartan customs which prevail here.

1st. The servant woman of the Christians is washing their clothes at the river. Sabia, the speaker's daughter, a girl about eight years old, had taken a couple of shirts, but she hid them so badly that the *Kill* saw them, and took them from her; she made a second attempt at a pair of stockings which she had succeeded in hiding in her *haik*, but part of one of them came in sight, and she was again discovered, the Christian dog now boxed her ears well.

"Poor girl," said the other, "she is young yet; with time she will become more expert, but you should beat her well every time she is found out, in order to render her more expert in her movements."

"That I intended doing," replied the mother, "but she made up for her stupidity in some measure, by biting a lot of buttons off their shirts whilst they were drying;" this, on my shirts being brought me, I found to be perfectly correct, as not *one* was left; it would appear, that like the ancient Lacedemonians, they consider the crime is in being found out, and not in the robbery.

On the 25th, the other two robbers were to have been impaled, but they contrived to make their escape out of the place where they were confined. I had a good view of the Sultana by chance to-day. I was lying under the shade of a tree on the hill which is near the Esmaila, when she passed to pay her devotions at the shrine or tomb of her father (he was also a Santo), who is buried there. She is about five feet three in height, a brunette, with rather high cheek bones, frequent among the Arab ladies, as well as those of Scotland, full blue eyes, and a well-turned leg and foot, the former being most beautifully tattooed with hieroglyphics up to the middle of the calf, which the fresh breeze blowing against her snow-white haik discovered to my view. She favoured me with a glance as she went past, but alas ! this is all a dog of a Christian can expect from a Moslem fair, as, should he even wish, he cannot marry any of them without turning to the faith of Mahomet.

To be caught speaking *soft things* to any of the higher order, would in all probability cost being made a head shorter, or if they were single, one might escape by marrying them, first saying, "Allah il Allah ! sidi Mahomet el illa sola," which few words, and holding up the hand to heaven,

saying "semi," convert one to the faith of the Prophet. A new name is then given, and whatever crimes the individual may have committed up to the period of his adopting his new creed, they are pardoned, and he is considered as born again a new man.

Gil Ali informed me that one hundred and seventy stand of arms had been taken during the last two months, that is to say, picked up, belonging to the killed or wounded. Four Arabs arrived here as prisoners, charged with having taken bullocks to Mozaganem to supply the French troops. The Koran lays down, that any Mussulman who, in time of war, shall be convicted of supplying the infidels with provisions, or any other articles for their use, shall for the first offence, lose the right hand and right foot; for the second, the left hand and left foot; and for the third, the head. This being the first offence of which they had been convicted, they were sentenced to lose their right hands and feet the first market-day; they generally die from the results of this operation, which is performed with a butcher's knife by the executioner, who however expert he may be in the Arab method of hanging, is no surgeon, as was proved by the fate of the

individuals in question, who all died within a day or two after he had performed the operation on them.

26th June, we received information that the French general commanding in Mascara, having been made acquainted that the Emir had only about eight hundred men, including cavalry and infantry, with him in his camp, which was situated in a garden, about a quarter of a league from the town, formed the plan of attempting his capture by surprise. The *sortie* was fixed for the night of the 21st, at 2 A.M.; but the Emir, who has an espionage established in all the towns held by the French, received information of their intention, and moved his camp after dark about two miles further back. The French troops to the number of about two thousand, having left the town at the hour appointed, proceeded with the greatest silence, and surrounding the garden in which the camp had been situated, anxiously awaited the coming day, congratulating each other with the hopes of obtaining possession of his Highness, for whose person, whether dead or alive, a hundred thousand francs reward had been offered by the French government. The avaricious passed the hours till dawn appeared with anxiety, each

expecting that he was to be the happy individual into whose hands this golden prize was destined to fall, and had already disposed of how the riches thus acquired were to be employed to the best advantage; the young and enthusiastic viewed themselves decorated with the cross of the legion of honour, and transporting themselves to the Jardin des Tuilleries, beheld each finger designating him as the individual who had been fortunate enough to pluck out this sore thorn from the side of *la grande nation*, whilst his *chère amie*, with looks of admiration was saying to him. “Tiens, c’est toi qui a vaincu Abd-el-Kader; pour ça il faut que je te donne un baiser, mon héros.” All was ardour and enthusiasm, time rolled slowly on, and the stars had just begun to withdraw their light on the approach of the bright orb of day, when the cordon having been *reserré*, the golden fruit which was expected to have been found in this garden of Eden, was turned, like that in Milton’s *Paradise Lost*, to bitter ashes. “Sacre bleu! le gamin est échappé,” passed from one to another, and they returned to Mascara, the golden visions of the night being melted into *thin, thin* air, whilst their disappointment was added to, by the taunts of the Arabs, who now attacked their rear-guard.

27th. A letter arrived to-day to Gil Ali from the Kalifa of Meliana, Bennallel, stating that one of his spies had brought him information *via* Algiers, from undoubted authority in that town, that the allied powers had claimed the restitution of Algiers to the Ottoman Porte within four months; to this report I gave no credit at the time, but imagined it highly probable that the Ottoman Porte might have come to the determination of appealing to the five powers who had guaranteed the treaty of Constantinople on the subject, as the maintaining the integrity of the Ottoman Empire applies as much to Algiers as to Syria, and the entire occupation of Algiers by the French would throw into their hands an export and import trade amounting to, at my calculation, about seven millions sterling. The principal part of the trade to Tombuctoo, and the Zaara, or desert, in which are many large towns, is carried on *via* Tlemecen to Fez, from which at present British merchandize is brought by the traders to these parts; but once the line of the Taafna occupied by French troops, were even English goods admitted from Morocco free of duty, there would be little demand for them, as all traders to the interior could supply themselves with French manufactures at so much cheaper a rate

than they can do at present, where ten per cent. is paid on European goods which are disembarked in any port of Morocco, and another ten per cent. on all going to the interior, before they are allowed to leave Fez, making twenty per cent. ere they reach the Emir's territory. Immense quantities of goods would be smuggled into the territory of the Emperor, *via* the Taafna, to avoid the high duties on disembarking at the sea ports in his dominions, and, in fact, the whole trade of this part of Africa would be almost entirely thrown into the hands of the French, who ere many years had elapsed would also prosecute their conquests to Fez. France on its occupation gave a promise to submit the affairs of Algiers to a congress of the allied nations; that congress has as yet never been demanded, but should the Allied Powers ever come to the decision of again placing Algiers under the Ottoman sway, so far as any but the sea-port towns are concerned, this would be impracticable unless the Emir were to submit himself to the Grand Seignior. Perhaps he might be induced so to do were he given the pachalick on the same terms as Mahomet Ali holds Egypt; in which case I have hopes Algiers, from the liberal policy of His Highness, would soon become one of the most enlightened and civilized of

any of the countries subject to the drawback of Moslem fanaticism, which prevents the *schoolmaster* making much progress. The French column left Mascara a few days back, on their return to Mozaganem; some severe skirmishing took place, and four prisoners were brought in. An excursion to the walls of Mozaganem was made by Hadgi Mustapha during the time the French column was at Mascara, who took thirteen prisoners. Bouhamidi made a similar inroad to the gates of Oran, taking eight prisoners. The total number of prisoners in Taasa, amounted, on the 28th inst. to 105—taken since May.

The method pursued by the Emir is invariably, when the column leaves any of the principal towns, to make a *foray*, as they say in Scotland, over the country they leave unprotected, when, if any tribe near the towns has submitted to the French to avoid the destruction of their property by a *razia*, they suffer *it* for their treason to their country from the Emir's troops. The reader may not probably be aware of what the French term a *razia*, I shall therefore inform him, that it signifies an expedition made against any particular tribe, with the most Christian intention to kill the male part, burn and destroy everything which cannot be removed,

and bring off the women and children prisoners. To ensure success to expeditions of this nature, they are conducted with the greatest secrecy, steps are taken to surround those thus devoted to destruction by such forces that escape is impossible, and they first become aware of the danger they are in, when their assailants' drums are heard beating an unpleasant *reveillé*, having been surprised with a cunning which would do credit to a Mohawk Indian.

On the 5th of July, a deserter came in from Mozaganem, and brought information that the French intended making another *sortie* from that town, their destination was supposed to be towards where the Sultan's tribe usually reside, and it was rumoured their intentions were to build a fort there, or rather a block-house. This spot is dear to the Sultan as the place of his birth, and the burial-place of his forefathers for many centuries, and is held in great veneration by all the Arabs, in consequence of the number of Santos whose ashes repose here; amongst them, those I have already mentioned of the Sultan's family hold a most conspicuous place.

The Kalifas of Tlemecen, Mascara, and Tege-dempt, have been summoned to the *rendezvous* near

Mascara, with the militia or irregular forces of their respective districts.

A French renegade employed with Mr. De Casse came here with letters from that gentleman; he informed me that large mines of lead existed in the mountains to the N.E. of Taasa; in the ore found there, he stated the quantity of silver to amount to near a fifth part—he brought me a beautiful piece of Turkish-stone, of which there is a large quarry at Taasa, so good that it would pay well for exportation. Copper mines he stated were also to be found in the direction of Meliana, which could be easily worked, and the Sultan is anxious they should be so; however, nothing can be done towards this important object as long as the present war continues.

On the 8th, we received information that the French column had left Mozaganem on the 3rd, reaching Mascara on the 5th. As the escort this time did not amount to more than 1,500, the Emir determined attacking them on their return, and purposed paying a visit to the Esmaila immediately he had left them in Mozaganem again. At the time this column left Mozaganem, another composed of 1,500, proceeded upon Schellif. This force was attacked by Ben Aratch on the 6th,

and suffering considerable loss, returned to Mozaganem on the 9th. The troops in Mascara made a *sortie* on a foraging expedition; they were also attacked by Hadgi Mustapha, sixteen prisoners were taken, but fourteen of the number were decapitated by the Arabs, notwithstanding the Emir's orders to give quarter. This was to be attributed to the irregular troops of Mascara, who had suffered most from the French *razias* against their *corn-fields*, which had been destroyed when the wheat was just fit for reaping; but, if the object of this wanton destruction was with the view of starving the Arabs out, it was a foolish one, as they have enough grain in their pits to last them for several years. The Arabs, in lieu of granaries, preserve all their grain in pits; forty or fifty of these are made, each to contain about a thousand bushels; the spot selected is a dry, sandy soil, the hole being formed in the shape of a large earthen jug, the sides are plastered with mortar about a foot in thickness, and the wheat or grain filled up to the mouth, which is left just large enough for a man to get in at, and is about three feet below the surface of the ground; this is now plastered over also, and filled up with the soil around to the same level as the sur-

rounding country. The earth taken out in forming the pits is removed to a distance, and being scattered abroad, in a month or two the grass grows over the surface, and no one, unless those who have buried this treasure, would imagine that there was anything beneath their feet.

The grain thus buried preserves for many years. I have eaten bread at the Esmaila made from wheat as old as the Sultan, having been buried the year of his birth, and it was as good as that made of flour from this year's crop.

CHAPTER IX.

Departure of Candido—Reflections on his fate—Sortie from Mascara—Jews sold by auction—France and Spain—Arrival of supplies—Removal of the Esmaila—Attack on the French column—Peace declined by the Emir—Visit of a lion—Arrival of the regiment of Tegedempt—Rafael blows his finger off—Defensive position occupied by the French column—Arrival of the Sultan—The Sultan receives the people as a Marabout—Treason of the tribe of El Harar—Proclamation by the Emir—Deputation from the tribe of El Harar—Concentration of the inhabitants of Mascara—Masquerading of French troops.

ON the 14th we received information that a hundred barrels of ammunition, which had been sent to Mr. M., *via* Fez, for the Emir's service, had arrived at Tegedempt, and he sent Mr. Samuel Ebensur to receive it. Poor Candido went, or rather was carried with him, in order to see if there was a doctor at Tlemecen, who could amputate his hands; they had become frost-bitten the day we entered Tlemecen, and from want of proper medical attendance, had almost fallen off piece by piece; his right foot in like manner had rotted away, and I had cut it off myself for him some time back. I rode in as far as Tegedempt to see him safe on his journey, and then placed him under the

particular charge of Ebensur. Although he was Mr. M.'s servant, from the time he became so ill I took him under my charge, being something more of a doctor than my friend M. ; however, my skill in that way is but small.

On leaving the poor fellow he gave me such an expressive look, that I plainly perceived he thought it would be the last time we should meet on this side of eternity. "A Dios, señor," said he, "si nos vemos otra vez espero que me habran curado, y si esta es la despida paciencia." A large tear rolled down the cheek of the grateful fellow. I held out my hand, not recollecting the miserable state his were in, he significantly glanced at them, when patting his cheek I once more bade him adieu, and with a full heart mounted my horse to return to the Esmailla, reflecting on the vanity of human life : was this the lively, gay, and intelligent black, whose wit and humour had often served to beguile a tedious hour, during the midnight watches on our way from Tetaun? Alas ! to what a miserable state was he now reduced, without hands, and with only one foot, his future life, if spared, a life without enjoyment, or even the hopes of alleviation from time.

The melancholy picture gave me a fit of the spleen, which hung on me for several days. When-

ever I passed by a tree to which I used to have him carried every morning, in order that he might at least have the benefit of fresh air, I fancied I saw the poor fellow's countenance hailing my arrival to see that he wanted for nothing. When I parted from him, he begged that when I came to Tlemecen I would bring him a piece of the wood of this tree, in order that he might have an image made of the Virgin to hang round his neck.

He had also vowed to have a wax foot made black, surrounded with white, to imitate snow, and dedicate it to the Santa Maria, in commemoration of the cure performed on his foot, which he said was a miracle of the Virgin's, who appeared to be his patroness. I endeavoured often to convince him that this was all nonsense, but without effect, he only answered that I was a *militar*, and consequently had absolution for what I said, but he was fully convinced, that were it not for the Virgin, mortification would have taken place.

On the 17th we were informed that the French column had made a second attempt to leave Mascara, but it had proved equally unsuccessful as the first, being obliged to return to the town. On this occasion a severe skirmish took place between them and the troops under the Emir's personal command.

They were now again kept strictly blockaded in the town by a force of fifteen thousand militia and the regulars of Mascara.

On the 19th two Jews were taken in the neighbourhood of Oran, with the canteen man of the French division. They were taken to Tlemecen, by Bouhamidi; the Frenchman was placed in the mechouar, with the other prisoners; but the Jews were put up *for sale*. The Arabs bid two hundred and thirty-nine dollars for them, to cut off their heads; but their brethren of Tlemecen gave two hundred and forty for them, saving their necks from the ataghan,—at least for this time. One of them, named Aaron, I allowed to avail himself of my safe conduct through Morocco, when I came away from Tlemecen on its subsequent evacuation. The Jews in question stated that a rupture between France and the Ottoman Porte was much talked of.

It appears that the French nation in general are desirous of a European war, their pride being much hurt by the pitiable figure they have acted in the affairs of the East; the Monarch is, however, as much for peace, aware that a strong republican party exists in his dominions, who, if assisted by two or three hundred thousand Spaniards, would pro-

bably endeavour to place another citizen at the head of the nation, though not probably under the name of King. Were a war to take place, Spain, from her close alliance with England, would, without doubt, enter a strong army into France, ready to avenge the wrongs which their country has sustained from the interference of the French, both openly and *sub rosa*, in order to crush the dawn of liberty, which first appeared in the time of the Peninsular war, and which it is to be hoped will be secured for ever by the *pronunciamento* of September 1840. French interest was destroyed among all the liberal party in Spain by the entry of the French army to put down the constitution in 1823, under command of the Duke d'Angoulême; a constitution (that of 1812) which they so richly deserved, by their glorious struggle for independence under the hero of Waterloo and the brave Mina, &c. In 1814 the unqualified restoration of Ferdinand the Seventh placed it in the power of that tyrant to do away with so liberal an institution, putting in its stead the "*estatuto real*."

The seeds of liberty had, however, been too widely sown to be put down even by the Machiavelian policy of this despot; the standard of which was again set up by Riego, Torrijos, &c.; and their

blood, shed in the sacred cause of their country, only served to smother for a time the flame ever ready to break out anew.

The constitution of 1835, obtained from Maria Christina, was known by all persons of judgment to have been wrested from her by the circumstances of the times; and the army were aware from the year 1837, in consequence of the non-adherence of the government to that constitution which they had sworn to defend, that on the conclusion of the war with Don Carlos's party, they should have to contend with that of Christina, and either compel them to adhere to the established form of government, or expel her and the French partisans by whom she was swayed, from all participation in it. Those who served in the army of Navarre were well aware that Louis Philippe's secret policy was to have Spain governed as despotically as possible, to favour his own absolute dominion in France. To effect this end, although he could not afford open assistance to Don Carlos, nothing that could be done to promote his cause underhand was left undone—to wit, the six pieces of field artillery taken at Penacerada, which were not only French, but also their horses and equipment, and had only crossed the frontier a few days before they

changed masters, falling into the hands of the brave Espartero, the idol of Spain, who most worthily fills the high situation to which he has been unanimously elected by the voice of the nation. Louis Philippe, finding that his friend Don Carlos was obliged to quit a country whose soil for seven years had been saturated with blood from his rebellion (six hundred thousand on one side and the other had fallen in the war up to Nov. 1840), now turned his utmost attention to gain over the infamous ministry of Cleonard and Arizola. By French advice the law of *ajuntamientos* was endeavoured to be forced on the people. This would have virtually placed the power in the hands of the Crown, investing it with the right of naming the Alcaldes. As I have said, the army had long expected this crisis, and when the call to resist this decree being put in force was made by the junta of Madrid, most regiments immediately joined the national guards, rallying round the standard of liberty. Christina in vain now endeavoured to come to an arrangement; she was too well known to be depended upon, and was consequently obliged to leave the kingdom, and take refuge with her friend and adviser, Louis Philippe, who is now endeavouring to get Don Carlos's consent to marry.

his son with Isabella, and under this pretext to again raise the flame of a civil war in Spain. This he has also failed in, but is determined to revolutionize Spain by all means. Christina, who will do anything that has the possibility of leading to her again being placed in power, is once more to raise her pretensions; and great preparations are making for this attempt, which is to come off in May.

Spain has shewn in the face of Europe that she is capable and determined to maintain her independence. That this fresh machination against her liberty may be equally unsuccessful as the former ones, is the sincere wish of a warm admirer of a brave nation, who have only been held behind the rest of Europe in science by the iron rule of despotism, and the fanatical ignorance of the Church, which prohibited the use of any books except such as had passed its scrutiny, and to the fair sex books of every description, except the Missal, were forbidden. To write was considered a dangerous heresy. It is only the rising generation who possess the means of instruction; and I must do them the justice to say, that the youth of both sexes vie with each other in obtaining possession of the information which their fathers could

not. Schools are almost everywhere established ; musical and dancing academies are to be met with in even such small towns as San Roque ; in fact, the schoolmaster is abroad.

On the 18th, the ambassador who had been sent to Fez returned, bringing as a present from the Emperor fifty horses, five hundred muskets, and two tons and a half of powder, a handsome equivalent for the horses which the Emir had sent to Muley Abd-Herramann, Emperor of Morocco.

I have before mentioned that lions are extremely numerous in the neighbourhood of Tcgedempt. Last night one came up to within thirteen or fourteen yards of Mr. M.'s house, the doors and windows of which had not yet been completed, in consequence of the difficulty experienced in obtaining sawn timber. Hadgi Mahomet and the Jew, my interpreter, were keeping watch when this visitor made his appearance. The Jew was the first to see him : pointing him out to Mahomet, he immediately made good his own retreat, ensconcing himself behind a heap of sugar bags ; deeming that he was not even quite secure here, he wrapped himself up in his blanket. Hadgi, on the contrary, who would have faced the devil himself, had he come *in propria persona*, seized his musket and put a ball

into him, on which he went left about. It is said that Ali Pacha's moustachios stood on end when in a passion. Although asserted by Byron, I considered it a traveller's story, but was now perfectly convinced that it might be true, having seen Hadgi's stand out like a tiger-cat's, whilst his eyes looked like two fire balls.

On the 24th, the Esmaila was brought about half a mile nearer to Tegedempt, at the head of a beautiful rivulet which descends from the neighbouring mountains. The object in removing the tents was to concentrate them more, the Sultana having become alarmed at the frequent visits paid us lately by the lions. A few nights back, one made his appearance in the centre of the enclosure, and made good his retreat with a sheep. Last night he found out our new quarters, seizing a young heifer about two hundred weight, and dragged her near five hundred yards from the Esmaila. It was near daylight ; four of the Arabs who were on guard mounted their horses, and galloped after him, but not hitting him, the furious animal left the cow and made at them before they had time to load ; on which they returned to the tents, outside of which a flock of sheep was lying. Not being able to come up with the horsemen, the

lion seized a sheep as a cat would a mouse, and made off to a neighbouring mountain, beating his flanks with his enormous tail, whilst his eyes glowed like two stars of the first magnitude.

On the 26th a letter was received from the Sultan, stating that the French column having left Mascara, had taken a different route from that on which the principal part of his forces had been placed to intercept them ; but that having received advice of their movement he had followed them up with the regiment of Mascara, and the force under his immediate command, and brought them to action on the 22nd. The loss sustained by the French he stated to have been one hundred and twenty, whilst he computed his own loss in the three attacks which had been made on this column at about six hundred men. The French had therefore not lost more than half the number the Arabs had : this disproportion is principally owing to the Emir's want of artillery officers, having plenty of field pieces, but none capable of directing them ; those who are denominated artillery officers here being Turks formerly belonging to Algiers, and who know as much about a gun as a gun knows about them.

On the 27th two hundred camels and the same

number of mules, which belong to the Esmailla, were sent away to transport treasure to the desert; but to what part was only known to those who were employed on this expedition, the greatest secrecy being observed on these occasions.

On the 29th, Gil Ali told me that the Emir decided, with the advice of Bennallel, Hadgi Mustapha, and Bouhamidi, as well as that of his other Kalifas, to refuse *absolutely* and *definitively* peace on any similar terms to those proposed by Mr. Nicolas Mannucci; he again repeated that they were contrary to his religion and his honour as a prince, and would bring him into contempt with his Arab subjects, and forfeit the esteem of the Emperor of Morocco, in whose territory he would always find an asylum and protection for his family, should he be worsted in the present contest; and would himself be enabled to carry on a predatory warfare, which sooner or later must be successful.

I have before stated that I admired the Sultan's character; the foresight of this youthful warrior confirmed my esteem for him; and my opinion, which is perfectly in unison with his, that he will sooner or later become sovereign of the whole territory, and even Algiers itself, I have little doubt; but I question whether this will content him.

The whole of the Zaara or desert opens a wide field, and I have hopes of exploring these wild regions at some future period under protection of his flag. He is the eastern Napoleon : may the conclusion of his career prove more successful than that of the unfortunate exile of St. Helena !

On the 28th the Sultan's mother left this on a visit to her daughter, the wife of Hadgi Mustapha.

On the night of the 30th, having been awakened from my sleep by the barking of the dogs, I looked out of the tent door, and saw a huge lion going very leisurely towards the centre of the enclosure ; he was not thirty yards off, but not appearing to have any particular business with me, I thought it best to let him proceed on his own affairs ; considering that his majesty had perfect right to help himself to a sheep, when he could do so with impunity ; at least he had on this occasion the right of all conquerors, that of the strongest, which he proved by walking off with a goat, I suppose by way of change of diet, as his last repast had been mutton.

The French column, which had remained till the 29th under the walls of Mozaganem, now made another robbing expedition to the plains of the Schellif ; their destination was supposed to have

been to Mozuna, a town situated to the north-west of Tegedempt, about three days' journey, and said to be of the same size as Mascara.

On the 30th the regular troops, or regiment of Tegedempt, arrived, and were encamped close to the Esmaila; they had been sent for in consequence of great discontent prevailing in the tribe which the robber who was executed belonged to, and of a communication having been discovered between them and the French general in Mascara. I inspected them with Gil Ali on the morning of the first day; they were about eight hundred strong, consisting entirely of the inhabitants of the town. Their field day did not consist of many evolutions, being inspected in line, and afterwards marching past in columns of companies; they then re-formed in line, and fired a *feu de joie* from the right. Their dress consists of a pair of Turkish trousers, and a loose blue cloth jacket, buttoned up, and a waist-belt or canana, such as is used by most of the Spanish troops for carrying their ammunition in; their drummers were mostly deserters from the French service, and the marches they beat were consequently all French. The officers are distinguished by two silver plates, from which are suspended several small crescents by silver

chains. There is only one officer to each company, the captain. The non-commissioned officers are distinguished by wearing one plate similar to that worn by the captain, and the commanding officer is known by his red uniform without plates, having three stripes of gold or silver on the cuffs; the captains, and also the non-commissioned officers, wear red.

An action took place on the 31st, between Bennallel, and some of the detachments going from Meliana to Algiers; the loss of the French was stated to be thirty, whilst that of the Bey was only twenty killed. Bennallel brought off sixty head of cattle from the tribes subject to the French, and also a number of women—being the usual products of a razia.

The young Spanish servant Rafael contrived to blow off one of his fingers, and as it was the one used to pull the trigger, there was no fear of his being made a soldier on his return to Spain, which he had always a great dread of; some time afterwards the young rascal owned that he had done it for the purpose; at the time, however, he did not much admire the sensation it caused, as he called most lustily on the Virgin, and all the Saints in heaven; yet in an hour after he

was singing the *manola*, as if nothing had occurred.

On the 9th of August we received information that Bennallel had given the summons to arms to his province, that is of the militia forces. The French column was stationary near Sigui, about equidistant from Oran and Mozaganem; their object in selecting this spot being the protection of those towns, whilst they were at the same time enabled to send out foraging parties; these would not, however, be enabled to procure anything, unless they happened to discover the Arab pits of grain, every thing which was capable of being removed, having been placed out of their reach. The not having proceeded upon Mozuna, as was expected, I imagine to have been in consequence of the serious losses they sustained near Mascara, which the defensive position adopted by the present column induced me to suppose had been more considerable than what the Emir had rated it at. We were also aware that great sickness prevailed amongst the French army, both in Oran and Algiers. The bishop of Algiers keeps up a correspondence with the Sultan, and states that peace may be established on terms different to those proposed by Mr. M.; that the whole of the territory taken

during the present war will be given up, provided he will only ask for peace, but even this His Highness is not disposed to do.

On the 15th the French column returned to Mozaganem, and the Sultan having seen them safe to quarters, proceeded to have an interview with Ben Aratch, with whom he had to consult on matters of importance.

On the 16th a courier came to say that the Sultan would arrive in the course of the day. I happened to be in Tegedempt, where I now remained, preferring the house to the tents at the Esmaila. At eleven in the morning the Sultan arrived : he had on a white bernous, and the whole of his dress was of the same colour ; he brought with him no more escort than his personal suite, amounting to about some forty horsemen ; having alighted at the principal Mosque, situated at a musket shot's distance from the town, he remained there for about an hour. I then proceeded to pay my respects to him, and expressed my satisfaction that His Highness had fortunately escaped the danger he had passed since we last met. Coffee was brought, and all those who had impudence enough came and kissed His Highness's hand, rank in presentation not being observed on this occasion,

when he gave audience to all his subjects. His arrival was greeted by a discharge of nine rounds from the field pieces at the fort. These had escaped *destruction*, or at least being taken by the French when they came to Tegedempt, in consequence of their having been placed some feet under ground by the Bash-Tubji, or chief of artillery. Gun-carriages being an article which this worthy has no idea of constructing, he mounted them for the salvo by raising their muzzles on some stones.

The Emir's great hold over the whole of the faithful, is his being considered as the defender of their holy religion, from principles of faith. When at the Mosque, individuals poured in from all directions to kiss his hand or the hem of his garment, each bringing a contribution to him as a Marabout or Saint; these he received, and gave his benediction in return, placing the amount in a silk handkerchief which was alongside him; the contributions varied from six-pence to a dollar, and from what is thus given him he supports himself, nor will he receive any presents, unless of arms, from any one for his own use. Should any thing else be given him, he orders it to be sold, and the amount which it brings placed in the treasury to defray the expenses of the war. An individual once

attempted to give him fifty dollars in this way; but he refused it with indignation, saying, that was no sum to give to a Marabout—and to a *Sultan* it was an insult, as he could command the riches of his subjects.

On his way from Ben Aratch the Sultan met two Arabs of the tribe of El Harar (the same as that to which the robber had belonged); letters were found on them to the Governor of Mascara, and they had their heads taken off on the spot. It appeared from the letters discovered on these traitors, that their tribe had offered the French, if they would advance again on Tegedempt to join them there, having first rendered themselves masters of the Esmaila. The Governor of Mascara had communicated the offer made by them to the Governor of Oran, who had replied that their proposals could not be complied with at present, but that in the first week of October their wishes should be attended to. The present letters of which they were the bearers, were to urge the French to make the incursion sooner, as they feared the Sultan would attack them before that period, in which case they would be obliged to retire more into the interior of the desert. From the answer given by the General commanding in

Oran, it appeared that nothing of consequence would be attempted prior to the month of October. The Emir has commenced bringing to order the refractory ; some tribes not having paid the contributions required of them, parties have been sent to collect them, and grain, cattle, &c. are coming in from all directions ; those who are at all dilatory in bringing in their quota allotted, when they have brought it, receive payment on the soles of their feet. A Royal order was this day proclaimed in Tegyedempt, by a piquet of twenty soldiers with the colours of the regiment of Tegyedempt, and the drummers of that corps, by which all who had absented themselves from the ranks without leave, were ordered to join the regiment the following day, under penalty of confiscation of their property, if they had any, and if not, to suffer two hundred bastinadoes and imprisonment during the royal pleasure. Hadgi Abd-el-Kader Buccleigha, having been sent by the Sultan to enforce the fine of forty-thousand dollars, which had been imposed on the tribe of Esdama, an acting Governor or Kaid of Tegyedempt was appointed ; but this worthy remained only a few days in office : in one of the first cases which came before him he received a bribe

of forty dollars, which was reported to the Emir, and he was immediately dismissed. Buccleigha being obliged to absent himself frequently on affairs of higher importance, the Sultan appointed another permanent Governor. His installation to office took place this afternoon before the Cadi, and Muley Tijeb (the *chargé d'affaires* of Muley Abd-Herramann), in the house which at present serves as a court house. Having taken the customary oaths, he was invested with the scarlet mantle, the insignia of office, and a discharge of musketry, or rather of carbines from the artillery, who were drawn up in front of the door, completed the ceremony.

24th, a deputation arrived from the tribe of El Harar, bringing cattle, sheep, &c., to appease the storm which they were aware sooner or later would fall on them; but the Sultan would take nothing, unless the chiefs were brought before him to receive judgment for the communication they had been in with the French. Hadgi Mahomet left to day for Tetaun, his uncle having died and left him considerable property.

On the 30th of August, the Emir issued an order, that all the former inhabitants of Mascara should proceed to a village in that neighbour-

hood. Some of those who had domiciled themselves in Tegydempt made remonstrances with the Kaid, not wishing to leave this place ; but once the Sultan's order is given, it is like the law of the Medes and Persians. Those who were most refractory with the tongue, soon became as docile as lambs, when submitted to the all-convincing argument of hamlooming ; the bastinado is administered with a stick varying in size, the first that comes to hand, no store of these useful articles being kept ; this is perhaps owing to the circumstance that no regular executioner is required, the judge frequently acting in that capacity ; Bash Tubji, or the chief of artillery, was particularly active in enforcing this order, and bestowed the bastinado with his own hand on one individual with such good will, that the poor devil in question crawled off on all fours to prepare for his journey. Information was brought that France had consented to give up Algiers to the Ottoman Porte, and that a Bey had been named, who had disembarked at Mozaganem with four thousand men. I did not at the time give credit to this information ; however, that four thousand Turkish troops, at least as far as dress could make them, with bands of music in the Turkish style, had landed,

was perfectly correct, being so many French regiments masquerading with the young Omar, son of the former Bey of Algiers.

Proclamations, some of which were brought us, had been issued, stating that France had given up Algiers to the Porte, and that Omar had been appointed Bey ; that the war was no longer against the infidels, but against true believers in the same holy faith, and inviting the tribes to place themselves under the protection of their former masters, when they would be protected from the iron rule of the Emir, &c. Some tribes, deluded by the uniform, and specious proclamations, passed over with their wives and stock ; their grain, &c., which they could not remove from the pits, was taken possession of by the Emir ; and when they had crossed over they were miserably disappointed to find the *ruse de guerre*, to which they had fallen victims : their cattle and stock many of them were obliged to sell to the French, to avoid their being taken in the *razias* so frequently made up to the walls of the town by the Sultan's troops ; and others again came back and threw themselves on the mercy of the Sultan, vowing never to trust a Turk or a Kaffer again.

CHAPTER X.

Convoy arrives from Fez—Object of the Sortie from Mozaganem—Belief of the Arabs as to Englishmen—Arrival of a Caravan from Tombuctoo—Price of Slaves—Information relative to Tombuctoo—Return of the expedition to Esdama—Descendants of Sodom—Mr. Nicolas Mannucci leaves for Algiers—Gil Ali's daughter—Interview with His Royal Highness—Visit of Benselm—Judgment of the Tribe of El Harar—Sickness in Tegedempt—Death of Muley Tijeb's wife—Attack made by the tribe of El Harar—Mr. N. Mannucci returns from Algiers—Razia made by the Sultan—Month of Rhamdan—Razia made by Bouhamidi.

FIRST of September. This month was ushered in by the arrival of a convoy of sixty mules from Fez, laden with supplies of clothing for the troops, a hundred barrels of powder had arrived from the same quarter a few days back; a son of Hadgi Taleb Benchelühl, the prime minister of Morocco, brought the supplies in question.

On the 5th we received information of the French columns being again in movement; one had left Oran, and the other Mozaganem, they were from

one thousand to fifteen hundred each. I mentioned that on the taking of Tegedempt a camel had knocked up and was left to its fate. To-day an Arab chief brought in a roll of sarsaparilla about twenty-five pounds' weight, the only thing which had been missing at the present time, everything else having been previously brought in. This will give an idea of the dread they are in of the Emir's summary jurisdiction with robbers.

On the 6th, we discovered that the object of the French *sortie* from Mozaganem had been to protect the passing over to them of a tribe in that neighbourhood, and who had invited them to make a *sortie* for that purpose. Mr. Nicolas Mannucci had been some days ill from fever; the Sultan noticing this to his brother, said that it was from over nursing himself. "You see," said he, "that the Englishman and myself do not fall sick, and the reason is because we fear nothing." I owed this compliment to my offer to storm Mascara, and also to having once come into the town of Tegedempt from the Esmaila at midnight alone, to seize some papers which threw a light on the machinations of the French government here. Not an Arab would attempt it at night, as they fear the numerous lions who are constantly assisting the jackalls at their

nightly repasts on the dead horses, &c., which are brought out of the town and left on the neighbouring plain for their consumption. On the night in question I fully expected to have found some of these gentry in my way; but it has always been my firm belief, that that Omnipotent Providence which rules over all things can alone destine when the hour of death is to arrive; and unless the sentence is sent forth from that awful tribunal, no earthly power can injure a hair of our heads, and we are equally secure in the battle field or in the tempest's roar as if we were in Hyde Park. On the contrary, if our time has arrived, there is no corner of the earth, however remote, in which the searching hand of the angel of death will not find us out, and execute his dread summons.

The subject of religion brings to mind a curious belief which exists amongst the Arabs, viz., that we in England are not Christians *entirely*, but of an amphibious sort, something between Christians and Mahometans. They say that Mahomet was a great friend to the English, and wrote them a letter exhorting them to turn to the *true* faith, and that they should be the first people under his sway, and that we were almost converted, when the death of Mahomet put an end to the correspondence, and

we remained infidels ; but still we are not so bad as the others, because we do not worship images. It is also strictly forbidden by the Koran to make any resemblance of anything supposed to be in heaven. I allowed them to indulge in this belief, which is so general, that to the question of what nation you belong to, when answered by "English," they reply "Imlehah," good ; but if French, it is "Kilb ben el Kilb." For Spaniards, they merely value them in the ratio of the price they bring in Morocco, and call them "Gallinas," or hens.

On the 7th, a caravan arrived from Tombuctoo; they had been fifteen days on the road from Tafilat, or the city of dates. I was informed by them, that in the latter city, dates are the only food used by the inhabitants ; they grow wheat and other grain, but it is given to the horses and cattle. The dates being dried are ground and made into cakes. They had been upwards of three months from Tombuctoo, owing to their having made several halts at the different towns on their way. They had fifteen negroes with them for sale, principally girls; only one of them appeared to be above twenty years old, the rest were from twelve to sixteen ; they appeared quite contented, being usually romping and playing about in front of their owner's

tent, which was placed near the soto or market ; this is held once a week, on Thursdays. When this day arrives they will be exposed in the market, unless disposed of previously by private contract. Whilst I was looking at them, an Arab arrived to examine them, with intention to purchase. He commenced feeling their arms, breasts, &c., and for one of the girls, the prettiest amongst them, who presented a bust which appeared particularly to strike his fancy, as he said she was *Imlehah*, fine, he offered seventy dollars; the merchant in human flesh, however, asked eighty dollars, and no sale was consequently effected. The prices demanded for them varied from sixty to eighty dollars. Being desirous of obtaining information as to the manner in which they were obtained at Tombuctoo, I asked if they were purchased from their families, or were taken in the forays made by one tribe on the other. He said they were generally stolen from their parents, but sometimes taken in the wars ; in either case they were brought to Tombuctoo, and deposited in a building outside the town, under the regulations of government, as the purchaser who went there was not allowed to enter the building in question to choose the number of slaves he wanted ; but on stating the

age and sex he required, and the number, they were brought out to him and a bargain made for them, giving property in exchange, but that money was not received, it being there considered a sin to sell them for specie. The goods usually carried for this barter are haiks and blankets of Fez manufacture, and striped and plain cottons, beads and knives of European. He stated Tombuctoo to be as large as Fez, and was particularly anxious that I should accompany him there in December, swearing by the head of the Emperor, and the Sultan's, that he would bring me back in safety to Tege-dempt.

Had I it in my power I should not have felt the least objection to taking the trip with him, disguised as his servant, and remaining in a separate tent with him alone. By pretending to be deaf and dumb before strangers, I might have gone with perfect safety, taking my interpreter as another servant of his; and being cautious to avoid its being observed, as Burns says, that there was "a chiel amang them taking notes;" which could only have been done by writing them by candle-light. And it would have been also requisite to have shaved the head, and put on the Turkish costume. More information is to be obtained in this way

than by expensive expeditions, and being known as Christians, when you are looked upon not only as *Kilbs*, or dogs, whom to kill is to obtain Paradise, but as spies of nations whom they fear, as wishing to seek out the nakedness of the land, to pave the way for future conquest.

Gold dust and ivory, it is needless to say, are principal articles of trade with Tombuctoo. Gold dust can be procured here at from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and sixty dollars per lb. from the trader, but it is a monopoly which the Emperor is desirous of maintaining, and to this may be attributed the death of Davidson, who was no doubt got rid of by the Emperor in order that he might not bring to light any way of perverting the Tombuctoo trade from Fez.

8th. Hadgi Abd-el-Kader Buccleigha returned to-day from his expedition against the tribe of Esdama, the inhabitants of which, although they did not suffer the utter destruction which fell upon their ancestors of Sodom, were made to feel the judgment of Mahomet rather severely, Buccleigha having given them a *razia* in due form. His troops returned in high spirits, galloping their horses, and discharging their muskets in the air, in sign of the success which had attended their foray. They

brought with them one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, eighty thousand sheep, and ten thousand horned cattle, one hundred horses with saddles and bridles, eighty unbroken in and brood mares, with upwards of two hundred mules, bringing as hostages for the future good behaviour of the tribe some fifty of the principal chiefs. These might easily be distinguished from the soldiers who formed the escort, presenting the true picture of knights of the woful countenance; their steeds also might vie with Rosinante in prominence of bones and scarcity of flesh, as none had been left them which were considered fit for anything. The worthy Kaid I have no doubt derived his share of profit from this expedition, as even his household showed they had made good use of their time. I saw one of his negroes with the hood of his bernous full of dollars, purchasing himself a complete equipment.

As it will appear strange to the reader my calling the tribe of Esdama the descendants of Sodom, I must inform him that there are a great many tribes here and on the coast of Reefer, who go so far as to distinguish the different towns in Palestine to which their forefathers belonged ere they were expelled by the Jews. It is asserted that none escaped from Sodom and Gomorrah; how, then, can these

be the descendants of those towns? Are they those of Lot and his daughters? I leave this knot for those to untie who are more acquainted with Scriptural learning than myself.

On the 9th another convoy arrived from Fez with clothing, &c., consisting of seventy-five mules, and also a number of horses for the cavalry; the latter had been given over to Bouhamidi at Tlemecen, amounting to about a hundred.

On the 16th Mr. Nicolas Mannucci left this for Algiers, and his brother accompanied him to Meliana. The Emir, however, gave him no letters to the French government. He had written by my advice a letter, (vide Appendix No. II.) but having sealed, and delivered it to Mr. M., he again sent for it and tore it up, so that Mr. M. had a most unsatisfactory account to give his friend, General Bugeaud, as to the progress he had made with the Emir. Not to be outdone in politeness, he sent a gazelle and some lion skins to General Bugeaud.

On the 17th Gil Ali, who was a widower, and in his sixty-third year, took unto himself a young wife to comfort him in his old age. The fair bride was only sixteen, a relative of Bouhamidi's. Gil Ali has a lovely daughter, the pride of the Esmaila; I saw her sweet features, one day as we

were on our way back from the Desert ; she is as fair as a lily, and to me appeared like an houri of Paradise ; could she have been obtained on other terms than shaving the head, I strongly suspect I should have proposed for her, Arab fashion, without courtship, and put my head into the matrimonial noose in the same way as we take a fort by storm, that is, without consent of the other party. An interview took place between Bennallel and Monsieur la Cruz, some of the principal merchants of Algiers were present, but what the object had been did not become known to us at the Esmaila, which induced me to suppose that it was a similar proposal to that made by the Bishop.

On the 20th the Sultan went to the camp of the Aga of Mascara, returning the following day. On the 22nd, perceiving the bungling way in which Mr. M. was conducting the negociations as to peace, I demanded a private interview with his Highness, and clearly laid down to him the line of conduct which I considered most conducive to his interests, and offered, if Mr. Noel's affairs did not allow him to proceed to Europe, that I would do so alone, and my friend Mr. M. could remain with him ; but that as his knowledge of the Arabic would be of the greatest use, I would rather that he should

accompany me. Gil Ali was the only one present at the conference, and he perfectly agreed with me in all I proposed. A courier was accordingly sent off immediately to Meliana, requesting Mr. Mannucci to come to the Esmailla with as little delay as possible. Benselm, Bey of Dellyz, arrived this morning to confer with the Sultan; he brought with him thirty mules laden with fruits and other presents, and eight laden with specie.

Benabou, the treasurer, said to me, when the gold and silver was bringing into the treasury-tent, that if we could only get rid of our wool, &c., here, there would be enough to fill the tent with silver; and the old man was right, for I should imagine that at least two millions sterling of wool and wax are to be had in the territory of the Sultan at the present moment, as little has been exported for the last three years. Benselm also brought ten beautiful horses as a present to the Sultan.

On the arrival of Benselm he pitched his tents adjoining the Esmailla, his escort consisted of about fifty of his principal officers. They were all dressed in white bernouses, with scapularies of large beads round their necks. The Sultan left his tent, followed by the Kalifa of Tegedempt, Buccleigha, Gil Ali, and some twenty more of his household

officers. The suite of Benselm were drawn up in single file about twenty yards from his tent, the Kalifa himself being at twelve paces in front of them. When Abd-el-Kader arrived within a hundred yards of this party, Benselm advanced, and kneeling to kiss the Emir's hand, the latter raised him up, and they embraced each other most cordially; the others now advanced by files from the right, and bowing one knee, had the honour of kissing His Highness's hand in due form, whilst several poor devils of Arabs, who only wished to have the honour of touching the hem of his garment, were kept at a respectful distance by the Sultan's black slaves, who with white wands, or rather sticks, acted as masters of the ceremonies. The presentation being concluded, the Sultan accompanied Benselm to his tent, where coffee and refreshments were sent from the Sultana's: this lady is an adept at making sweetmeats of every description, and on this occasion an abundant supply was sent of all sorts, which Benselm did full justice to. The Emir afterwards had a long private conference with the Bey, which lasted till the call was made for the afternoon prayer. The whole of the cortège now proceeded to the centre of the enclosure, and most devoutly went through the Moslem

form of prayers, the Sultan performing the part of high priest : this over, each retired his own way.

The affair of the tribe of El Harar was judged to-day, some of their principal chiefs having thought it most prudent to appear. They were fined two hundred thousand dollars ; for the payment of which sum, six months were allowed. They, however, did not appear very well pleased with having to dig up¹ so much treasure ; and from their countenances it might be seen that they were “mincing malhecho,” or brooding mischief. I remarked to Benabou, that I thought they would be perfectly good for a *razia* that day six months, and the old gentleman appeared to be of the same opinion.

On the 26th the Sultan's interpreter came from His Highness to beg that I would prepare the rough draft of what documents I should require, and that he would have them translated into Arabic, that no time might be lost on Mr. M.'s arrival. Muley Tijeb, the Emperor's *chargé d'affaires* here, being aware of my intended departure, also offered me letters to the Emperor, or any others I might wish for to Morocco. This young man (he

¹ The Moors always bury their specie.

is only about twenty years old) is of the royal family of Morocco, and of the most engaging manners of any of his nation I ever met with; he always dresses in the most rich oriental costume, his robes being of silks, and fine muslin, and his bernous, which is generally white, being of the finest lambs'-wool. He seldom, however, wears the green turban, but has adopted the cord tied round the head like the Arabs, in lieu of being of camel's-hair; it is, however, made of green silk.

Great sickness prevails in the town; five or six generally pass the door every day, on their way to their last homes. The funeral dirge is chaunted from the house of the deceased, till the corpse reaches the burial-ground. Almost the only words I could make out were "Allah il Allah!"—God is God. One young man, a brother of the present Kaid, was buried to-day; he was to have been married in a few days. Perceiving the chaunt to be a little different to that usually sung, I asked my interpreter what they were singing; he informed me that they were lamenting the young man had died and left his sweetheart behind him. The idea excited my risible faculties considerably, as it put me in mind of the chaunt of Irish women at a wake:—"What for did you die, honey! and leave

all the potatoes behind you?" The funeral was attended by the Kalifa and all the principal inhabitants of the town, four deep, and holding each other by the hand; preceding the corpse, and not following, as is usual in Europe.

On the 3rd, A. M., we received information of the French column having left Mozaganem, proceeding towards Tennez, where Ben Aratch was preparing to give them a warm reception; and the Sultan himself left this at midnight, with his personal escort, leaving orders with Ben Bekir to summon together the irregular forces of the district, and follow with them as soon as possible. I was informed that the French had made a *sortie*, and having surprised some Arab tribes, had taken them into Mascara, to re-people the town.

My friend Muley Tijeb and the whole of his family have been attacked with the fever; his wife died to-day, after a short illness of only three days. She was a beautiful girl; a few days back I had seen her blooming with youth and beauty,—by chance having caught a glimpse of her at the bed-room window, as I was going in to see her husband,—and I was first aware of her melancholy death by a message from Muley Tijeb, to beg that I would send him a piece of camphor to put

in her ears. This is an Arab custom, which being universal, caused so much demand for camphor lately, that none was to be had in the shops.

I received a letter from Mr. M. stating that he would be with me in a few days, and endeavour to arrange his affairs so, that he might be enabled to accompany me to Europe.

On the 13th, information arrived that the French column was on the river Mina, about five leagues from Tegedempt.

I have already stated that a combined movement between the French and the tribe of El Harar had been fixed for the first week in October.—On the 14th I remarked that a great number of Arabs were coming in, at a very early hour in the morning, under the pretext of attending the market, it being market-day. However, Muley Tijeb and myself were induced to suspect their intentions were to trade in the way of powder and balls, as we perceived they were bringing nothing for sale.

In consequence of the French being so near, orders had been issued the night previous, by the Kaid and Muley Tijeb, that all the inhabitants of the town should be prepared for another visit to the desert, and that every one should stand to his

arms. All those who were in the market had consequently their muskets *en bandoulière*,—slung across their backs ; and it was fortunate they were thus provided. At about eight o'clock A.M. there were some two thousand Arabs in the soto. One of the tribe of El Harar seized a basket of shoes belonging to an inhabitant of the town, to break the ice, preparatory to a general sacking of the place, which had been planned, if they did not meet with a determined resistance in their first attempt on the market. Their plans, however, proved abortive ; the Morocco merchant, on whom the first essay was made, proved that he could deal in other materials than leather, and drawing one of his pistols out of his breast, shot the Arab through the heart. A pell mell fight now commenced ; shots were going off in all directions ; and the row soon spreading into the town itself, the balls came whistling up and down the street *à gusto*, as the Spaniards say. In this hubbub I stood like a fool, as one could not tell whom to shoot at ; in a few minutes, however, the assailants began to draw themselves out of the mob, in order to make a retreat, and I now got my hand into play. Charging them with my friend Bash Tubji and his artillery-men, we drove them about half a mile

from the town. They left seven dead, and we afterwards learned that upwards of fifty had been wounded. We did not deem it prudent to follow them up, under the present circumstances, but returned to town, when cavalry patrols were placed all round the immediate neighborhood, and videttes on all the heights, to give notice in case they again came to the charge. We were now aware that five thousand of them were encamped about three leagues off, doubtless in expectation of assistance from their French friends. I thought this tribe stood a good chance of a *razia*; but they have now sealed their doom, and will, sooner or later, be left like those of Esdama. Over the latter tribe the storm had hung for a year before they felt the effects of it. They had imagined the Sultan had forgotten that *they* had been in communication with the French in 1840, when suddenly forty thousand dollars were demanded, and not being paid on the spot, a *razia* was made—the order and the troops arriving at the same time, the Emir, when he purposes a *razia*, giving as little notice as the French do. My friend Muley Tijeb was particularly alive also on this occasion, and showed himself of the true blood of Mahomet. His ataghan descended with such force on the

head of an Arab who was running away, that it split his head in two, and he rolled a lifeless corpse upon the plain.

On the 16th we received news of Mr. Nicolas Mannucci having been sent back from Algiers, to try again what could be done, and if possible get the Emir to write a similar letter to the former one; General Bugeaud stating that even that would serve as a preliminary to further negotiations. Mr. Nicolas Mannucci is therefore daily expected here from Meliana, where he is at present with Bennallel.

Our spies brought information that a French steamer had arrived at Mozaganem on the 12th; and that as soon as she had come in, a courier was immediately sent to the column, and on the receipt of the communication forwarded by him to the general commanding it, the troops retired on Mozaganem. We were therefore free from an unpleasant visit of theirs, which we had every reason to expect.

17th.—The fever prevalent here, now paid us a visit. First my interpreter, then Domingo, and a renegade servant whom I had taken, (a Frenchman, formerly employed in the manufactory under De Casse,) were attacked by it; and lastly it came

to my turn. However, I fully determined to make it countermarch as speedily as possible ; and having no calomel at hand, I broke a looking-glass, and swallowed the whole of the quicksilver on the back. When the shivering fit came on I took a glass of saltpetre ; continuing the saltpetre for three or four days, and eating nothing, I *starved* it out. It however returned at intervals for near a month, but never lasted above a day ; as, when I felt the chill which precedes it, I always had recourse to the saltpetre.

On the 20th an action took place in the neighbourhood of Mascara. The French cavalry suffered severely, from their horses being knocked up. A considerable loss was however sustained by the regulars of Mascara, who bore the whole brunt of this action, the irregular cavalry not having behaved with their usual gallantry.

On the 25th the French column again left Mozaganem, with a convoy for Mascara, and were allowed to pursue their journey without molestation, as the Sultan had determined to take advantage of their absence, in order to make a *razia* on the tribes which had submitted to the French in the neighbourhood of Mozaganem,—this was accordingly executed, with the greatest success.

The Sultan brought away fifty women, four thousand head of cattle, and eight thousand sheep.

On the 29th Mr. Noel Mannucci and his brother arrived ; and on the 30th he was attacked by the fever from which we had all suffered.

On the 1st, being the new moon, when the month of Rhamdan, or fasting, commences, it was ushered in by the firing of musketry from all who had fire-arms, and enough powder was wasted during the night to have served for a general action.

In this month no Mussulman is allowed to eat during the day ; the order of things being reversed, and the night turned into day. After sunset and the evening prayer they breakfast ; at twelve o'clock at night they dine ; and at three A.M. they take their supper. The whole night being passed in feasting and making merry. The fair sex, whose lords and masters are of the working classes, dread this month, as their husbands being up all night, and having to work by day, are frequently in an ill humour, and not having any one else to vent their spleen upon but their better halves, they consequently receive frequent applications of the stick.

November.—On the 4th, my friend Bash Tubji

fired a royal salute of seven guns, to commemorate a victory gained by Bouhamidi, who had made an incursion to the walls of Oran, bringing off seventy-five women, one hundred and fifty horses, a thousand head of cattle, and from five to six thousand sheep, belonging to the tribes subject to the French government. Bouhamidi has been twice on the walls of Oran this year, and had he only a few rockets and carcasses, he could have set the town on fire; but, as I have already said, the Emir is entirely deficient in these most necessary implements of war, which are the most serviceable in the nature of the warfare carried on here. A good rocket-troop, and two light field-pieces, with an officer capable of directing them, are all that is required. Of "food for powder," as Napoleon termed the army, there is a superabundance. I think the Arabs are like hydras' heads,—the more you cut off, the more spring up.

5th.—The French column is at present in the neighbourhood of Zaida. A skirmish took place a few days back between them and the troops under the personal command of His Highness. The loss of the Arabs was stated at two hundred, whilst that of the French was estimated to be a hundred and fifty.

CHAPTER XI.

Departure from Tegedempt—Resolution to visit Fez—Ruse de guerre to pass through the robbers—Arrival at the camp of the Sultan—Reception given by the Sultan—Inquiries made by the Sultan—French renegades—Razia made on the robbers—Anecdote of a madman—Departure for Tlemecen—French sortie made from Oran—Anecdote relative to the month of Rhamdan—Dispute with the Aga—Opinion as to the sortie from Oran—Arrival at Tlemecen—Candido's dream—French in march on Tlemecen—Evacuation of Tlemecen—Sacking of Tlemecen—Confusion of a retreat—Rassel-bon—Treatment received from Melcader—Robbery by Melcader—Proceed to Kaaf—Arrival at Kaaf—Death of a Jewess.

THE protracted illness of my friend Mr. Noel Mannucci, rendering it advisable that I should proceed alone, I sent a letter to His Highness stating my opinion, and immediately received an order to proceed to his camp, which was at present on the Mina, and consequently lost no time in making the requisite preparations for my departure.

On the evening of the 25th, I went to the Esmailla to take leave of my friend Mr. M., who was still confined to his bed; having arranged every thing necessary with him, I demolished the

last that remained of some old Jamaica, which Mr. Nicolas had brought from Blida, as a stirrup cup, and with best wishes from all the coterie, for my prosperous voyage through the desert of Angad and Morocco, I mounted my Arab steed, and bade adieu to the Esmaila for some months, hoping to find them all well on my return. Arriving at Tegedempt, I requested the Kaid to provide me with a guide for the following morning at four.

At break of day on the 27th, I took leave of Mr. Nicolas Mannucci, who was residing in Tegedempt, and, accompanied by my interpreter and renegade servant, as well as a macasinier or soldier, set out on my journey for Tetaun, having some slight doubts that I might never reach there. I had determined *coûte qui coûte* to see Fez, and being aware that if I attempted doing so with any parade, it would be impossible, I therefore resolved to go with the Caravan; and in order that his Imperial Majesty should have no chance of refusing me leave to enter his capital, thought it most prudent that he should not know of my arrival till I was lodged in the Fonduque. We slept this night at some Arab tents on the Mina, the best of which was given up to me by the chief of the tribe, who

treated me with every kindness, having often seen him at Tegedempt.

On the 28th we had to pass through two tribes of notorious robbers, who were in communication with the French; being aware of this circumstance, I passed off as a French officer going with dispatches to the Emir from General Bugeaud, which saved my baggage, and probably my head. They contrived, however, by a most dexterous sleight of hand to ease the interpreter of my drinking cup, which he had in the hood of his bernous, and it was not missed till we came to the next stream, where wishing to clear the dust out of my throat, with a little *agua ardiente* and water, the cup was *non est inventus*. Not wishing to reach the camp late in the evening, I halted about two leagues from it, at an Arab village in the mountains, taking possession of one of their tents; a good supper of fowls and koskouso was soon forthcoming, and as I had brought a supply of *agua ardiente* with me, nothing was wanting but a good bed to be quite comfortable; this was an article of luxury to which for eight months I had been a stranger, my bernous and a *soft stone* having been generally the substitute for feather bed and bolster.

On the morning of the 29th, at eleven, we reached the encampment of the Sultan, which was most romantically situated on the banks of the Mina, near the ruins of an immense dam of stone, which had been made across the river, upwards of seventy yards in length, and from fifteen to twenty feet in breadth ; here, must formerly, in my opinion, have existed most extensive flour mills ; at about a mile to the eastward of this dam are also the ruins of an ancient fort and town. The ruins of the fort appear to be of the Roman times, and from its strong military position I should be induced to suppose this was the granary or flour stores of the army.

The troops were *en bivouac*, the only tent being a small one of the gipsy kind used by the Sultan. Halting at a short distance I sent the Jew to announce my arrival : he was occupied judging some of the refractory tribes, who had been found in communication with the French. The jurisdiction was perfectly summary ; the bastinado was given instanter, or a fine imposed, a soldier or more if requisite accompanying the party who had to pay ; and if the money was not forthcoming, they returned with horses, sheep, or cattle to the amount. The Emir perceiving the Jew, called him, and

being informed of my arrival, directed that a spot should be cleared near his tent for me to tether my animals and bivouac alongside him. I accordingly proceeded to take possession of the berth allotted me. Being an enemy to all needless ceremony, I did not trouble myself by going to kiss his hand, as I knew that he would select the best time for seeing me. As it was the month of Rhamdan, nothing in the shape of dinner could be expected before night; however, one of the hoyas or ushers shortly made his appearance with a cake of figs sufficient for a company of soldiers, and a basket of small white loaves of the Esmailia manufacture, telling me if I wished for a sheep to send for it. Being quite as used to rough it as His Highness, I sent word that the present was quite sufficient, and with coffee, made as good a dinner as an alderman on turtle soup. I now proceeded to smoke my pipe, cigars being out of the question, (unless now and then a few which were brought from Morocco,) and walked out to make a *reconnoissance* of our present position. I found it had been selected in such a manner, that it was only necessary to keep a guard on one side, being situated in a bend of the river. A guard is always requisite, not through fear of a surprise,

but in case any of the horses should break loose in the night, and stray from the camp. After evening prayer was over, a large dish of koskouso and boiled mutton was brought me, and another for the servants. Having taken coffee, I rolled myself up in my cloak, and putting my carpet bag for a pillow was preparing to take a nap, not expecting His Highness would send for me till eleven or twelve o'clock. However, I had only just fallen asleep when I was awakened by the usher, to announce that His Highness was alone and wished to see me in his tent; on my entering he motioned his secretary to withdraw, and having gone through the usual ceremony of kissing my own fingers he made me sit down alongside him, when we continued in conversation till past one in the morning. After it had been arranged that the papers required should be got ready by himself the following day, he asked me many questions relative to the different European powers, their naval and military force, trade, &c.; Russia and England were the two powers he considered the greatest; he had heard much of Russia in his travels through Egypt, &c. on his way to Mecca. He stated that the non-observance of the treaty of Taafna by the French had given him so bad an idea of them, that

no further confidence could be placed in any other treaty which they might make. The conversation also turned upon the renegades who had entered his service, and by whom, when he had placed any confidence in them, he had been invariably betrayed. Roche, the present interpreter of General Bugeaud, and son of the Mayor of Oran, was the first on this list of double traitors: he had gone over to the Emir, who admitted him to his intimate friendship, and gave him a daughter of Ben Nonan, Governor of Tlemecen, in marriage. This individual secretly forwarded to the French Consul at Mascara copies of all the correspondence which took place between Abd-el-Kader and Muley Abd-Herramann, and when the war was about to break out, escaped to Oran, leaving his Moslem fair to repent having placed confidence in a renegade spy. His next confidant, the Major I have mentioned before, had also deserted a short time back. I candidly told him that he had been to blame in placing any dependence on them; for that no one who was a traitor to his own country, could ever be the true servant of another, and that for the future I would strongly recommend him never to have an interpreter, unless it was some Jew of Tetaun, Tangiers, or some of his own subjects, as then

the heads of all their family would ensure him that he would not attempt to escape to the enemy, or if caught giving them any intelligence, his own head could answer quickly for his treason.

On the 30th, at the usual hour, I was called by the usher, and found that every thing had been arranged according to the Sultan's promise: he gave me letters to Bouhamidi and the Governors of Tlemecen and Oushdah. He wished me to go through Oran in preference to Morocco, but I wished particularly to see Fez, and prevailed on His Highness to permit my going that way, stating as an excuse that I did not much admire placing myself in the hands of the French, who might pay as little respect to me as they had done to Mr. Nicolas Mannucci¹ on a former occasion, and probably prevent my return; we remained in conversation till about eleven, when His Highness gave me a hint that he had other business in hand by saying, that he would see me in the morning before I left. I accordingly took my leave, but had scarcely laid down when the hoyá told me the Sultan was going out. I raised my head, and saw His Highness mount his horse, and

¹ Mr. M. was sent to France in irons, when he was the Sultan's *chargé d'affaires* at Algiers.

leave the camp privately, with about a hundred of his followers. Next morning I discovered that he had been to pay a visit to my friends the robbers, who had eased me of my drinking cup. At daylight, horses, cattle, and sheep were brought in, and I had the satisfaction to learn that some seventy of them had fallen, whilst the remainder were left to communicate to the French, that they were now able to join them in light marching order, having been eased of every thing but their wives and children, which the Sultan had no use for.

On getting up I perceived the Sultan seated at his bivouac fire, in rather curious company. A madman had been annoying us all night with his howlings, and was now seated very quietly: with the greatest coolness he was addressing himself to the Emir, on whom he bestowed such names as would have soon caused any one in his senses to be made a head shorter, calling him a son of a Kaffer, and other equally *honourable* appellations, at which His Highness smiled, and ordered something to be given him to eat; for which he returned thanks by calling him a kilb-ben-el-kilb. What a contrast between the Emir now, and four hours ago, was the thought that struck me, as I looked at his sword which he had taken off, and now laid by his side. All being ready for my departure I

went up to the Emir, who now gave me his hand English fashion, and wishing me a happy success in the important mission intrusted to me, called the officers whom he had chosen to accompany me to Tlemecen, and ordered them to mount. I now took my leave, wishing every success might attend his arms till my return.

Having left the camp, I found my escort consisted of the Aga of his body-guard, and a fine young fellow, son of the principal Aga of the Tlemecen militia, with also a soldier of the Aga's; we proceeded by the lines of Mozaganem, so close that parties of the blockade forces came up several times to see who we were. The old gentleman, the Aga, kept bothering me, "fisa, fisa—quick, quick," but as I had no idea of knocking up my baggage-mule, I lost all patience, and told him if he was afraid of a ball whizzing about his ears, to "fisa" to the devil if he liked, as I should proceed as I thought proper. Accompanying the word to the deed, I dismounted and laid myself down under a tree. Finding that I was determined to stand no nonsense, the son of the Aga came and begged I would pay no attention to the old man, as they would not leave me, having strict orders from the Sultan to see me safely to Bouhamidi's camp or to Tlemecen.

This young man, whom I took a great liking to, induced me once more to proceed, having first stipulated there should be no more *fisa*. At nightfall we reached the river Sigue; it was almost dark, when finding my troublesome old gentleman determined to keep us travelling still farther, I wished him good night, and a pleasant ride, and made up to a village which was close to the road. The young Aga Benadi laughed at my way of settling affairs with our old friend, who now most reluctantly followed us, and as if to make amends for what had passed, made himself most active in getting the Arabs to pitch a tent, and furnish us with every thing we required. A courier came from the Sultan during the night to warn the tribes that the French intended making a sortie, and that they must immediately proceed to the interior. At midnight we got up and proceeded on our journey, and did not reach our night's resting place till sunset the following day; it was at the Esmaila of my young friend's father; here we had no want of good entertainment, fowls, roast and boiled mutton, koskouso in various ways, and cakes and honey were furnished by the ladies of the Esmaila, coffee and sugar were on my account, and the whole night till three A.M. was passed

in feasting, taking coffee, &c. when we laid down till five, then shook off sleep and resumed our journey.

On the 2nd of December we halted at the river Macara, at my old guide's tribe; this being the first night the new moon was visible, the whole encampment assembled outside the tents to see it, which concludes the Rhamdan, or month of fasting; should the weather prove cloudy or hazy, so that the moon could not be visible for seven or eight days, the fasting must continue until it does appear; in this case, if it be seen in any part of the territory, couriers are immediately sent in all directions to announce that the moon has been perceived by more than two individuals, who have sworn to the fact before the Cadi or judge of the district in which it has been seen; and upon this the fasting ceases, and a day of rejoicing takes place. Why this custom should have been established by Mahomet, I can form no idea.

They were particularly anxious to prevail upon me to remain here next day, but as I wished to reach Tlemecen as soon as possible, I declined their kind offer, and we left our hosts early the following morning. The Sultan had given me letters to Bouhamidi, but finding I should lose a day by

going there, I determined to proceed the nearest road to Tlemecen; my old guide was particularly anxious to go to Bouhamidi's camp, and tried several times to deceive me in the road, but I had given positive orders to the muleteer to inform me whenever the old gentleman attempted to deviate from the direct line; when this was the case, the plan I adopted was to let him go on, whilst I took the road which the muleteer pointed out. The consequence was, that finding I was not to be deceived, he tried what could be done in another way, and told my interpreter to say I *must* go to Bouhamidi's camp; the young Aga and the soldier had on purpose feigned an excuse to get out of the way, on pretence of delivering letters to some of their friends, in order that the old gentleman might be left to settle accounts with me the best way he could. The matter was soon decided when we came to where the two roads meet, viz. the one to Bouhamidi's, and the other to Tlemecen; my old friend said to the interpreter that we must take the one to the camp; not being able to explain in Arabic my indignation at the old fellow's impudence, I had recourse to a much more convincing argument, viz. my sword, which I immediately drew, and told him if that was the case,

we would try *conclusions*, (as Shakespeare says,) and one of us would in all probability have no occasion to go either way. Making the muleteer and interpreter proceed on the Tlemecen road, I halted, but the old gentleman now became quite polite, and candidly confessed that he must go which way I thought proper, but that he had been anxious to take me to Bouhamidi's camp, as he believed the Sultan had written to the Bey to give me an Arab horse and some lion skins. As I did not require the horse at present, and was aware of the Sultan's order, I thought it better to leave it with Bouhamidi, knowing I could not embark it from Tetaun. On Benadi's return, we had a hearty laugh at our old friend.

I remained for the night at a large Arab village, my escort proceeding to the mountains with letters to Benadi's father; they returned early next morning, in company with the Aga himself. He informed me that the French had left Oran, and that as yet it was uncertain what direction they would take. It was, however, imagined that it would be on Tlemecen. I told him I was quite confident, that at present their object could not be to occupy Tlemecen, as they had not sufficient

disposable forces in Oran to leave a garrison in it, but that in all probability it was with the intention of making a *razia*, in revenge for Bouhamidi's last expedition.

The movements of the enemy rendered it necessary that the Aga of the Sultan should return to his master, and Benadi remained with his father, who gave me two of his soldiers to escort me to Tlemecen, with letters to Ben Nonan and Ben Mousa, the Paymaster-General, and likewise to the Kaid of the village where he had directed the soldiers to provide quarters for that night. I took leave of this Aga with assurances of mutual friendship; his countenance alone is sufficient guarantee for his good intentions, being a regular John Bull's, and his portly figure much resembles that of an English farmer. Benadi the younger and I embraced each other most cordially, and he promised that he would not fail coming to see me on my return. We remained at the Arab tents the Aga had appointed, where every kindness was shown by the tribe, the Kaid of which I found was a brother-in-law of the Aga's.

On the morning of the 5th, at eleven, we reached Tlemecen. I had sent the two soldiers in front with the letters to Ben Nonan, and on arriving at

the gate, found two ushers with their white wands ready to conduct me to the Mechouar, or judgment-hall. Here I met Ben Nonan, who informed me that he had received letters from His Highness (those I had sent on) to request that he would show me every attention as his friend. He asked my opinion as to the French movement, which I stated to be the same as that I had given the Aga. I promised to call on him the next day, and took my leave. He sent two ushers with their white wands to conduct me to a house in the Jewish quarter of the town, with orders to the Sheik to furnish me with everything I might require at government expense. These two venerable Rabbis soon made their appearance, with servants bringing all sorts of supplies.

Mr. Samuel Ebenzur, who had been informed of my arrival, came immediately to my house, and after partaking of some refreshment I went with him to see poor Candido, whom I found almost expiring. Dreams sometimes come true, as will be seen by one which this poor fellow had a few nights before my arrival, and which he communicated at the time to Ebenzur. He dreamed that I had come to Tlemecen on a white horse (when he left the Esmailia I had a bay one), and

was going to Tetaun. "Massa Scott, him go, but poor Candido no go; him die here." The poor fellow kissed my hand with raptures. Having given directions for what I thought best to be done for him, I bade him be of good cheer, for I would take him with me to Tetaun, and leave him with my interpreter till I came back—but, alas! I never saw him more.

I went to see Ben Mousa, and to procure information as to when a caravan would leave for Oushdah. Having ascertained from him that one was about to start in a few days, I returned home, and taking an early supper, retired to enjoy a night's repose, which was highly requisite, considering the fatigue I had undergone for the last ten days.

It was hardly ten o'clock before Ebenzur was knocking at the door to inform me that the French were in full march upon the town, and the inhabitants were preparing to leave it. As I was perfectly well aware that nothing could be done in the night, I told the interpreter and my servant not to answer. As soon, however, as it was daylight, I got up, and perceiving that this was another case of run away, I went to the square, where I found Bouhamidi, who had arrived with the regi-

ment under his command. The Kalifa was in the centre of about fifty cavalry drawn up in a half-moon, elegantly dressed, with a gold chain round his neck, and a baton like a Field-Marshal's in his hand. I begged him to provide me with as many mules or camels as he could spare, in order to save a quantity of powder, &c., belonging to Mr. Mannucci, which Ebenzur had here, and he promised to do so. Some time having elapsed, and finding no mules or other animals making their appearance, I again went to the square to have a row with Bouhamidi; but he had left it, and I perceived it high time to think of doing so also. Bouhamidi's soldiers had cleared the "Jew quarter" of the town of its inhabitants, forcing them to leave behind what they could not convey on their animals, or carry themselves. Numerous Arabs who could be discerned as belonging to the robber tribes of Angad, were to be seen loitering about till the soldiers left, in order to commence robbing and murdering any who remained in the rear.

I clearly perceived there was no time to be lost; Ben Nonan had taken the road to Oushdah, and I came to the determination of following him. Giving my friend Bouhamidi a hearty curse, I proceeded to make the best of what means we had. Ebenzur

had a mule, and I had my horse and another mule. These had been in marching order, with what was most necessary, since daylight, and the only thing was how to get poor Candido away. He could not sit without being tied on, nor could he come down from where he was without being carried. Ebenzur's and my mule were without any convenience to place him on, being laden with baskets or schwaries, and foreseeing what kind of a *déménagement* this was to be, I deemed it better to give him a note to the French officer commanding the column, should they arrive; and if they did not, I imagined we should return in the morning. I accordingly wrote a few lines, and sending the renegade to him with enough bread, and a leather bottle of water, sufficient for three or four days, we proceeded to the Oushdah gate. The Arabs had already commenced their work of plunder, and cries were to be heard issuing from some of the houses, as we went down the street, doubtless proceeding from the poor Jews who had returned to save some more of their property, but which was being wrested from them by the Arabs.

On reaching the outside of the town, such a scene presented itself as can only be imagined by

those who have been present in an affair of this kind—women crying, children squalling, mules or horses falling down from being over-loaded, whilst those who were behind drove over the fallen loads, the one cursing the other for driving over his property, and the other swearing at him for blocking up the road ; wild Arabs mixed up amongst the fugitives, looking out to see what they could purloin, with bludgeons in their hands about three feet long, with a knob as large as both hands, studded with iron nails, a blow from one of which would be quite sufficient to fell an ox.

Determining to wait till there was no chance of a counter-order to remain in town, which I fully expected, being convinced that the French had no intention of taking Tlemecen at present, I drew my party a short distance off the road, and sent Ebenzur to see among the Arabs who had mules, if any could be hired. He succeeded in getting one, and returning to the town, accompanied by the renegade, saved two barrels of powder ; but it was a dangerous trip, as the Arabs of Angad had now taken possession of the place ; he, however, had the good fortune to get out again safe. On his arrival we proceeded to the village of Rasel-bon, which lies to the left of the Oushdah road, and

about three miles from Tlemecen. Here I managed to hire a room for two dollars, which was to be the price whether we remained a day or a month. The immense number of Jews who had taken refuge here rendered it difficult to procure any lodgings at all.

The evening passed away without fresh novelty, but the morning of the 6th was ushered in by the robbery of some Jews only pistol shot from the eminence on which the village is situated. They had left with the intention of going to Ben Nonan, who was at another Arab village some three miles farther on the Oushdah road. Ebenzur offered to take a note to him, which I accordingly wrote, begging that he would send me an escort, and that I would join him. He sent back an officer and four soldiers, but these had more inclination to proceed to the sacking of Tlemecen than to return to Ben Nonan, and accordingly made their way off in that direction, telling me in good Arab that the Sultan and I might go to the devil together. This will give some idea of what was to follow. I now thought it best to take things quietly, and see what the following day would bring forth, my kind hostess endeavoured to give me some idea of what might be expected by

significantly drawing her finger across her throat. The next morning the determination was come to by all the Jews here to proceed to the camp of Ben Nonan. I also commenced making preparations to accompany them, and had the baskets brought out to load the mules. Some of the Jews had, it appeared, wished to proceed before the rest were ready, and set out accordingly, but they had not gone out of sight before we saw the Arabs plunder them of their baggage-mules, and strip them naked; they then returned to Rasel-bon. The wild Arabs of Angad, flushed by this first success, now made an attack on the village, wishing to plunder all in it; however, we had the good fortune to keep them off. Shots were flying about in all directions, and I consequently deemed the baskets safer inside the house; but what was my surprise to find that our ex-host not only refused to allow them to be put in again, but had placed himself and another friend at the outside door, allowing no one to enter the house. When things come to the worst they generally mend, is an old proverb. I therefore determined to smoke a pipe, and see what all this would end in. On attempting to enter the house to procure a light, I had the pleasure of finding two muskets placed

against my breast ; but telling my ex-host and his friend, if they wished to shoot me, as Oukil of the Sultan, they would pay dear for it, I turned their pieces away. For an instant their rascally countenances indicated that they were about to pull the triggers, but they thought better of it, and allowed me to enter. The reason our *worthy* host did not wish us to enter the house again was, that he himself had taken advantage of the confusion to appropriate to himself a carpet, which was usually placed on top of one of the loads ; this being missed, and suspicion excited by the conduct of Melcader, our Arab host, I sent for the Kaid, and shewing him my credentials from His Highness, demanded that a search should be made. He accordingly brought four soldiers, when the carpet and some other articles came to light, being found in the bed-room where the women were ; however, a small carpet-bag, with my full uniform, and three hundred dollars in gold, disappeared from the schwary in which it was placed, and was not missed till our arrival at Kaaf. The manner our advanced guard had been treated rendering it apparent that it would be impossible to proceed to Ben Nonan without an armed escort, the Jews came to an agreement with the Arabs of the

village to escort them, paying one hundred dollars for their services. The Kaid advised my going with them, and gave strict injunctions to the escort to protect me and my party gratis.

I had the mules prepared: my horse being knocked up with a sore back, I was obliged to walk. The convoy being ready we commenced our journey, numerous parties of Arabs hovered on our flanks, fortunately they had few of them fire-arms, most being however provided with truncheons. I took care to keep in the centre of the party, letting enough go forward to bear the first brush, and leaving as many behind as would give warning in case of our rear being attacked.

On arriving at a defile through which we had to pass, the convoy halted, and refused to go any farther unless another hundred dollars was given them; to be left here was certain robbery, therefore there was no alternative but to pay whatever they might choose to exact. After a little hesitation on the part of the Jews, the sum required was promised and we resumed our journey. From the rear cries continually assailed the ear, proceeding from those who having loitered behind were being plundered by the Arabs, whilst every now and then shots were fired in front, and the robbers were seen

scampering off up the mountains; my interpreter, who was only the ninth part of a man, being a tailor, did not at all relish the music of a stray ball which now and then came past us, and contrived to keep his spirits up by pouring spirits down. The *agua ardiente* bottle suffered considerably, as at every ball he heard pass him, he gave another pull at it.

On arriving at the Arab village Ben Nonan had been at, we found that he had left early the same morning for Oushdah, paying a thousand dollars to Bouhanani the Chief of Angad to allow him to pass in safety through his territory, it was therefore determined that under these circumstances it would be better to go to the small town of Kaaf. A short time before we reached our destination the party was halted, and a soldier begged that I would draw off my mules to a distance from the convoy. I accordingly suspected what was about to happen, and took the hint, availing myself of the opportunity to discuss some bread and cheese, and assist my interpreter in his respects to the *agua ardiente*. The Arabs now commenced collecting the sum which had been promised them, and any one who was at all dilatory in paying his quantum, received a hint to accelerate his motions by a blow from one of the

bludgeons of our escort. The money having been collected we proceeded to Kaaf; on arriving there we found that our loss was three killed, and some four or five wounded. The killed were two Jews and a Jewess: the latter was a sweet pretty girl, only fourteen years old; her father brought in the body in front of him on his horse; it was a melancholy sight to see the venerable old man, down whose blanched and withered cheeks the tears trickled, falling on the lifeless body of her who but a few hours back was his sole solace. She was his only child, and her mother had been dead some years. On my first visit to Tlemecen I had often played with the raven ringlets which curled down her neck; alas! they now fell back from her fair brow, lovely even in death.

CHAPTER XII.

Government of Kaaf—Description of Kaaf—Flying Marabout—
 —Death of Candido—Plan formed to murder us—Bouhanani's
 proposal—Proceed to Oushdah—Route to Oushdah—Arrival at
 Oushdah—Departure for Fez—Part of the caravan plundered
 —Attack made by the Arabs of Angad—Discretion the better
 part of Valour—Arrival at Taasa—Reception given me by a
 Marabout—Leave Taasa—Journey to Fez—Douars answerable
 for the caravans—Arrival at Fez.

KAAF is an Arab village, subject only nominally to the Emir: there is no Kaid or Mayor, but it is governed by their principal Marabout; to him therefore I addressed myself, and he fortunately proved a kind, honest old man, a sherif. Mustapha (his name) is considered the principal Marabout of this district. On showing him my credentials from the Sultan, he swore by his head and beard to protect me from all injury; he took me to his own house, and gave me the best room in it, a miserable one enough; however, here I could remain with safety, till an opportunity of prosecuting my journey should present itself.

The town of Kaaf is most romantically situated on a mountain, at the foot of which the Taafna winds its silver stream; this was formerly a Roman station, and afterwards fell into the hands of the Christians; they did not live in houses, but caves cut out in the rock on the banks of the river, at a part where the mountain rises almost perpendicularly. To these there is no access unless by a narrow path which ascends from the banks of the river; there are upwards of sixty of these subterranean houses. Daylight is admitted by small holes cut out of the rock; the principal one of them contains three rooms, communicating with each other: the outer one or hall is about twenty feet by twelve, the second, twelve by sixteen, and the third, which was the bed-room, is only twelve by eight: a recess is cut out for a bed to be placed on, it is about three feet from the ground, and four feet wide by six long; in all the rooms, seats are cut out in the walls. The inhabitants of these Christian houses had nothing to fear from without, as the narrow path-way which ascends to them is completely enfiladed from the loop-hole windows—fifty could here defend themselves against as many thousand.

At about a mile eastward of Kaaf, there stands a pillar in the shape of four urns placed one on the other, denoting that here once existed a temple, whilst around not a stone or the vestige of a building can be traced. My friend Mustapha in conversation to-day told me, that a nephew of his, a great Marabout, alias fool, was to reign over the whole of this country, and that this was a prophecy which was sure to be fulfilled; he stated that this worthy frequently went to Tetaun and Tangiers during the night, returning by the morning; at other times he took a trip to Meliana, returning with equal celerity. My worthy host placed implicit belief in this rhodomontade of a greater fool than himself. I secured his esteem by believing all he said on the subject, it being as well to have as many friends as possible, and begged that he would present my best respects to this expeditious traveller, which he promised to do, and further he assured me I might depend on that great personage's protection when he came to the throne. The day after our arrival, a large party of Jews who were coming here were attacked and robbed by the Arabs, twelve of them were killed, the rest being retained as prisoners till their brethren came

forward with three dollars per head to save them from a similar fate ; the poor devils arrived at night in a perfect state of destitution.

I was extremely anxious to find out what had become of Candido, and by force of the *primum mobile*, Ferdinando Septimo, I got an Arab who was going to Tlemecen to see what booty was remaining, to pay a visit to the house he was in, and ascertain if he was dead or alive. The town had been completely sacked, the doors even being broken to pieces to get out the nails : on his return he informed me that the powder-barrels had been emptied and were lying in the yard, with remnants of broken looking-glasses, &c., and a Jew with his throat cut. Candido was dead, but no violence appeared to have been offered to his person, and most probably he had died from fright on the sacking of the house.

To reach Oushdah from here you are obliged to pass through the tribe of Angad, who acknowledge neither Abd-el-Kader nor Muley Abd-Herramann—through them it is impossible to pass without a large convoy ; until one can be got together, or my host conceived that he could escort me through them with safety, I made up my mind to remain here. Five or six days elapsed in this state of

suspense and confusion, nothing was to be heard of but robberies and murders in all directions. The inhabitants of Kaaf had fallen out with another village, in consequence of some dispute which had arisen on the sacking of Tlemecen : several had been killed on both sides.

On the 6th day of our residence here, my friend the Marabout went in great pomp to make peace, dressed in all kinds of rags, with four followers ; one bore a pole with a large red flag ; another, one on which was fixed a kind of bowl with incense, and the other two with their muskets *en bandoulière*.

During the absence of my worthy host, a plan was formed to rob and murder us by the rest of the village, which I fortunately received advice of. Mustapha's son, a young man about eighteen years old, informed me that one of the Arabs had plainly told him that such was their intention, and advised him to keep out of the way the following night, which they had destined to be my last ; he at the same time assured me that they should never accomplish their plan unless they first made a corpse of him. I now held a council of war with Ebenzur, the only one whose courage I could rely upon, and we hit upon the following expedient.

The Arabs are averse to falling in attempting

a robbery, being equally sure in such a case of going to the devil, as they would be of going to heaven if killed in war with the Christians. The two barrels of powder had their heads immediately taken out, and making a slow match of a rope's end, I hung it up close to them; we now called one or two of the Arabs in, and showing them the barrels ready to be set fire to, told them we were fully aware of their intentions, and would defend ourselves as long as possible, and when we found we were likely to come off second best, we would ensure at least company with us, by blowing all up together. As they saw we took the matter quite coolly, smoking away whilst loose powder was lying about the room, they said we were "kilbs," and were even afraid to come near us, for fear of an accidental explosion taking place. The plan of plundering us by force was therefore given up, but another was tried, in which they proved equally unsuccessful. The brother of our host was as notorious a rogue as Mustapha was an honest man, and had twice attempted to shoot the latter. He came one day, with a most innocent countenance, to tell me that Bouhanani the robber chief of Angad was at his house, and would engage to convey me in safety to Oushdah, if I entered into

an agreement with him. As I had no confidence in my informer, and much less in Bouhanani, I told him I had not the least intention of moving my present quarters, until Bouhamidi or the Governor of Oushdah sent me a sufficient force to protect me. Disappointment was visible in the rogue's countenance; and on the return of Mustapha, I found that he and Bouhanani had arranged matters to escort us half way and then leave us, when another party of Bouhanani's were to make their appearance, and leave us to proceed to Oushdah in light marching order. On the Marabout's return I held a consultation with him, being well convinced that he would not deceive me, after the solemn oaths he had sworn, in addition to which he had often partaken of dinner with me; if an Arab *eats salt* with you he will not betray you: with his advice it was determined to make a moon-light flit, as they say in Scotland.

Accordingly, on the 19th, I sold my knocked-up horse, and exchanged my mule for a fine Arab, giving ten dollars difference. At about eleven o'clock at night, when all the village were retired to rest, we set out for Oushdah accompanied by Mustapha, his son, and four of his most confidential friends: we had scarcely crossed the Taffna, which is the

boundary of the tribe of Angad, when I imagined we were betrayed. We had come laughing on the road, saying that we were going to unload our mules at Bouhanani's; perceiving two Arabs lying under a tree at a short distance from the road, I suspected they were some of the robbers, but was most agreeably surprised on discovering that although they belonged to Bouhanani's party, they were friends also of Mustapha, who had engaged them to show us the short cuts through the enemy's territory. We proceeded with the greatest silence, frequently passing half musket shot from the Arab villages (of tents), but not even a dog barked at us. Mustapha said the prophet favoured me as the ally of his people; the only *gentleman* who came across our path was a lion; but our party, who kept extended in skirmishing order, made a sign to us to halt, and cocked their muskets. There was however no occasion to alarm the neighbourhood, as he intimated his business did not lie with us, and followed his own way, without accelerating his pace; he passed about fifty yards in front of our escort, who now waited till we came up, and laughing said the *killb* had heard them cock their pieces, otherwise he would probably have attacked us. At daylight to my great satisfaction we reached

the gates of Oushdah, but we had to wait some time ere they were opened. Immediately they were I presented myself to the Kaid, who gave me a room in the *sanctum sanctorum*, or mechouar, where he himself resided. Ben Nonan and the inhabitants of Tlemecen were encamped within the walls of the fort; not having a tent with me, I considered myself lucky to obtain the black hole in question from the Governor.

I gave my kind friend the Sherif an ounce of gold for his trouble, besides paying three dollars each to the rest; but as Mustapha had not afforded me his protection from motives of interest, but from those of religion, it was with difficulty I prevailed on him to accept the amount; we embraced most cordially, and parted from him and his friends with assurances of friendship when we should meet under more agreeable circumstances.

I here ascertained that Tlemecen had been ordered to be evacuated by Bouhamidi, in consequence of some suspicions which he entertained as to Ben Nonan being in communication with the French; whether such was really the case I am not prepared to say, but should much doubt it. Roche's conduct with respect to his family was almost a sufficient guarantee of his not entertaining fa-

vourable opinions of that nation. Several couriers arrived from the Kalifa, directing that the inhabitants should return to Tlemecen, but they refused to do so unless they received an order direct from the Sultan, to whom they had preferred complaints relative to the premature evacuation of the town, by which many had been ruined.

On the 26th of December, I received information that a caravan was about to start for Fez, and prepared to leave with it, first writing to my friend the Emir, recommending Melcader to his particular notice, and telling him how much I was indebted to Mustapha.

On the 28th, early in the morning, we left Oushdah; our caravan consisted of about a hundred mules, &c., and an escort of twenty cavalry. On leaving the town the soldiers, Arab fashion, were particularly anxious to see my horsemanship; but they soon found I was no stranger to their exercise; taking a fowling-piece from one of them, I put my horse to full speed, followed by the soldiers, but I soon distanced them, and firing in the air, returned and met them.

The route to-day was considered particularly dangerous, and it was dark at night ere we reached the Fonduque: the ill effects of being so late on

the road were felt severely by some whose animals had knocked up, as they did not reach that night, but came in at daylight the following morning *en négligé*: there were about twenty, the male part of them came in eased of every thing but their drawers and shirts, and the fair sex, of whose persons the day before only one eye was to be seen peeping out from under their haik, now offered all their charms to the vulgar gaze, being literally *en chemise*; the other females of the convoy however furnished them with garments to again envelop their fair forms from sacrilegious gaze, and we proceeded on our journey, reaching the fertile vale of Aza in the evening. The inhabitants of one of the Arab villages came out to meet me, begging that I would remain at their tents; they had been informed that I was coming, and said that every thing I wished for was at my disposal as the Sultan's friend, the defender of their religion.

I was, however, obliged to decline their kind offer, the caravan halting some distance farther on, and it not being safe to remain at a distance from it. In lieu of the good fare proffered by the friendly Arabs, I contented myself with a soldier's supper, of fruits, and a glass or two of *agua ardi-*

ente, for making which the Jews of Aza deserve a premium, it being the best made any where in Morocco. There are a great many Jews here, and they are a flourishing community, being independent of most of the trammels under which their brethren in Morocco suffer. This is principally owing to their being protected by the tribes of robbers by whom they are surrounded ; in return for the protection thus afforded them, they serve as the medium to dispose of the booty acquired by these marauders, receiving cent. per cent.

Yesterday being Saturday, which is the Jewish Sunday, Ebenzur and Garçon had to pay a fine of a dollar each for having travelled on it, imposed on them by the Sheik here ; against his decision there was no appeal without coming to action with the Arabs, it was therefore deemed most prudent to pay the cash.

We had not proceeded above a quarter of a mile when the caravan halted, whilst some of the escort returned to Aza, to rescue one of the party who had been detained by the Arabs ; during this halt cries from the front announced that some of the party were under the process of being placed in light marching order by the Arabs. I therefore set spurs to my horse, and accompanied by four

of the escort, we arrived just in time to rescue our fellow travellers. The attack had been made whilst they were passing the bed of a dry creek, whose steep banks afforded a shelter to the robbers ; we galloped up the side of it after them, but they knew the ground better than we did ; at the turn of a ravine we saw half a dozen musket barrels levelled over the bank of the creek at us. I had only my sword, which was of no use here ; I therefore made signs to the soldiers to fire, in order that we might receive their fire and charge before they had time to load again. The soldiers, however, began a parley with them, which ended in its being agreed that they should draw off the field and allow us to proceed unmolested. The soldiers said their reason for not firing was, that if a shot was fired the whole neighbourhood would be under arms, and we should have a hot day's work of it. On this occasion I think Falstaff's opinion, that "discretion is the better part of valour," was true ; this attack, however, served the soldiers as an excuse to make the muleteers pay a quarter of a dollar per head for each mule as salvage. We halted this evening near the camp of Busean, Sheik of the whole of the country from Oushdah to Taasa : from the immense circle of

tents formed by his encampment I should imagine it to contain at least fifteen thousand men : he is uniting the whole of his forces on the frontier, with the intention, as is supposed, of joining them to those of Abd-el-Kader ; the road to day was covered with Arabs, repairing to his camp, and one who was coming mounted on a camel, amused me not a little by the answer he gave to a question which I caused my interpreter to put to him, as to where he was going ; he had his musket slung across his shoulder ; his answer was, significantly looking at my trousers, “ to fight the Roumie Ben-el-kilb,” to war against the Christians, you dog. I laughed, and wished him success : he had at first took me for some Frenchman, but this bringing on a further conversation, he soon became more friendly, wishing me a speedy return among them.

On the 1st of January, we reached Taasa. In an evil hour, Ebenzur and myself went on some distance in front of the party. We had, however, scarcely entered the town, when my unfortunate trousers being seen by a rascally Marabout, he caught hold of my bernous, and drawing it aside, showed the mob that I was a Roumie ; at the same time he seized a stone and made an attempt to

knock my brains out. I however avoided the blow which he aimed at me, and some bystanders got between us. I perceived that Taasa was still as bad as before, and that there was nothing to be done, without going to the Kaid; accordingly I mounted my horse, and accompanied by Ebenzur, proceeded in the direction of the Mechouar, the infernal Marabout following me, calling upon all true believers to assist in killing a kilb of a Christian; he was soon joined by all the rabble in the town; ere I reached the Mechouar I had an escort of about three hundred, who every now and then halted and gave a hurrah, such as is given in Spain when a bull is taken to be baited. The respectable merchants who were seated in their shops did not join my suite, but contented themselves with calling me Kilb, and drawing their fingers significantly across their throats.

They all imagined on reaching the Mechouar, to see my head cut off—or if I should say “Allah il Allah, sidi Mohamet el illah sola,” they would at least have the pleasure of seeing my head shaved, and then oblige me to put on a more decent pair of trousers; they have a thorough contempt for our narrow ones. Not having the least inclination to afford them either amusement,

I gave my horse to one of the soldiers to hold, and thought it best to produce my credentials before the Kaid, which I did, at the same time telling him, he had a most rascally mob under his command, and it was his duty to see that they did me no injury, or he would have to answer for it; that as to their tongues, I valued what they said about as much as I did the yelping of so many curs. That I was a Roumie and a Ben Roumie, a Christian and the son of a Christian, but the friend of the defender of their faith, and his oukil.

The Governor said he was sorry that I had been insulted, but could only blame myself for coming on without the soldiers; he, however, immediately sent four to accompany me to the Fonduque, and gave strict orders that I should not be annoyed by new visitors to see the *lion*.

Once in the Fonduque, I remained there during my stay here, without going into the town to afford the inhabitants another sight of a Roumie.

On the morning of the 5th, we again resumed our journey. In the afternoon it commenced raining in torrents. Towards evening we arrived at a few miserable tents, drenched with the wet. For a dollar I managed to get into an out-building of

one of the houses ; but, when night came on, I found we were not to be the only inmates even of this apartment : a cow first made its appearance, and was introduced in due form by our host ; shortly after, some goats made their *début*, and the master of the ceremonies now informed us that our select *soirée* was complete. We had made a good fire on our arrival, managing to dry ourselves and the carpets which formed our beds ; this enabled us to pass the night a little more comfortably than we should otherwise have done. The kind feeling, however, which is here entertained towards the Christian traveller may be formed an idea of, when I state that our host, in requesting his brother to bring some corn which we had purchased from him for our horses, said, “Bring a bushel of corn for these dogs.” As “dog” is the usual term applied to a Christian, no notice is to be taken of this epithet.

The next day our stage was a village on the road-side. On our arrival, we found the inhabitants of the hamlet all seated in front of the hut which served as a Mosque ; alongside this building was another, which was allotted for the fair sex to offer up their devotions in. Receiving information who I was, they gave me up this

hovel for the night ; it was, however, much better accommodation than they had at first intended affording, for having perceived that I was a Christian, they doomed me either to remain in the street, or else take the dimensions of my neck. An individual among the assembly, the only one who had a sword by his side, on seeing me come up, folded his arms across his breast, and commenced *toisé-ing* me, as the French say ; muttering between his teeth, “ Kilb ben el kilb,” whilst his eyes flashed vengeance. I met his frowns with a laugh, and one of the soldiers having told him that I was no Frenchman, as he had at first supposed, but an Englishman with Abd-el-Kader, he gradually unbent his brows, and coming up to me gave me his hand in token of peace. I now took his sword out of the scabbard to see whether it would have been able to cut my throat decently ; I found it in excellent order, and strongly recommended him to go and try its edge on some Frenchman’s, as I had no inclination to prove his dexterity on mine. He laughed, and said I was a “ Kilb ben el kilb.” This is not always meant as an insult, as the Arabs, it would appear, have few words of endearment, for you frequently hear the women call their

children in arms, while caressing them, "Kilb beni el kilb," and "Káffer."

Two or three attempts were made here during the night to rob me of my horse, but they proved abortive, in consequence of Ebenzur's mule and it being fastened together with an iron similar to handcuffs, and consequently they could not move without alarming the guard. From Taasa to Fez, in any part of the country which is not in a state of rebellion, you have nothing to fear from robbers, the inhabitants of the village you remain at being answerable for the safety of the caravan. They place a guard every night, receiving sixpence per head for each animal; if any thing is stolen, on complaint being made at Fez, they are obliged to make good the amount you swear the property to have been worth.

We had calculated remaining the following night at an Arab village about a day's journey from Fez, but on our arrival at the spot where it had been situated, we found we had reckoned without our hosts, as they had removed elsewhere; we were therefore obliged to go farther than we had expected. It came on quite dark, and we only found out some tents by the barking of the dogs; we had

not the good fortune, however, to be able to procure one, and consequently had to bivouac for the night. To add to our misfortune, it commenced raining, and wood was not to be procured, thorns and brambles being the only substitutes; although we were wet through, yet that did not banish sleep, waking in the morning like drowned rats. One of our party, a Moorish trader, was robbed of a carpet in which he had sewn up two hundred dollars. The robbery was attributed to the Arabs of the village; but I was much more inclined to suspect our muleteer, as he had been frequently in the habit of loading the mule for the merchant, and it was extremely improbable that strangers should select an old carpet. On our arrival at Fez, however, two soldiers were sent for the Sheik, and he was ordered to make good the amount.

On the 8th we reached the famous town of Fez, the hot-bed of Islamism. We had made four days' journey of what is usually performed in two, in consequence of some of the tribes on the regular line of road being at war,—cutting each other's throats at perfect ease,—one day's journey from His Imperial Majesty's capital, which shows how easy these things are taken by the government.

CHAPTER XIII.

Entry into Fez—Emperor's body guard—Population of Fez—
 Departure from Fez—Riches of Fez—Punishments inflicted
 by Mussulmen—Arab muleteers—Method of summary juris-
 diction—Find a basket of money—Arrival at Tetaun.

ON our arrival here, fortunately, it rained heavily,—
 I say fortunately, as this circumstance enabled us
 to reach the Fonduque without an escort such as I
 was favoured with at Taasa. The old town is
 situated on the slope of a hill, whilst the new town
 is built upon a table land on its summit; above
 this plain, high mountains are situated to the
 north-west; and in these takes its rise a strong
 mountain cataract, which passes under the walls of
 New Fez, running through the old town: affording
 the convenience to the inhabitants not only of
 abundant water, but also the means of erecting
 numerous water-mills; the machinery of one of

them, situated close to New Fez, struck me particularly, being constructed on the most improved European principles,—iron fly-wheel, &c. The streets are narrow, like those of all African towns where wheeled carriages are not used ; but there are many fine buildings, particularly the Mosques. The Emperor resides in the new town, and is attended by his personal guard, consisting of from four to five thousand renegades, the scum of the nations to which they formerly belonged. An addition to this *garde sacrée* came with our caravan—a Spaniard. I had the curiosity to ask him what part of Spain he came from ; he gave me his history as follows :—

“ I am a native of Saragossa ; I was transported to Melilla for fourteen years ; I remained there eleven. About seven months ago I made my escape, by jumping over the walls at night, with my irons on ; the sentries fired at me, but I had the good luck to escape without being wounded. In the morning I met one of the Reepe tribes, who sold me to another for 2s. 8d. or a bougou ; this was no doubt to pay himself for having taken my irons off. This second master sold me to a third, for a dollar ; and the third to a fourth, for a dollar and a half. From him I made my escape at

Taasa, and am going to join the Emperor's guard."

This valuable soldier had *only* been transported to Melilla for stabbing a townsman, who had died of the wound : he assured me very coolly that he had been most unfairly sentenced, as this was nothing, at least in the opinion of a Saragossa Spaniard.

The population of Fez may be estimated at about three hundred thousand, 20,000 of whom are of the Jewish persuasion ; but the life they lead here is not to be envied : they cannot walk through the Moorish part of the town with their shoes, and are even obliged to tie their black caps on, if they do not wish to purchase a new one every day ; true believers consider it an amusement to take them off their heads and throw them away, whilst frequently they also spit at them without the least provocation, but merely to show their abhorrence of any one who is not of their way of thinking. As a Christian, had I gone much about the town I should most probably have come in for my share of insults as well as the Jews. I therefore deemed it most prudent to remain as quiet as possible in the Fonduque, merely sending the interpreter to Hadgi Taleb for the Emperor's order to the Go-

vernor of Tetaun, which it was necessary to procure, a regulation existing to admit neither Christian nor renegade into the sea-port towns without an order being sent from Fez to that effect.

The pleasant life which I led during the few days I remained in Fez may be formed an idea of: in a small room about eight feet by six, into which the light was admitted by some loop-holes looking out on the river, eight feet from the ground, the rushing of the mountain stream, and the agreeable noise made by the rolling of a few pairs of stones in a flour-mill (which was only separated from my room by a partition wall) afforded a music capable of banishing slumber during the night.

Most willingly did I take leave of this prison on the morning of the 14th, and proceeded, accompanied by an officer of the Emperor's and Ebenzur, to await the caravan at the outskirts of the New Town of Fez. Ebenzur went some twelve paces in front of me, and the officer kept close behind. We had not proceeded many yards from the Fonduque, when a grave Moor, who was coming very leisurely down the street, halted, and with the greatest gravity imaginable spit at Ebenzur. Seeing my advanced guard thus unceremoni-

ously attacked, I thought that I should be the next to come under the enemy's fire; he passed me however without proceeding to open hostilities, merely turning up his moustachios, and with a most contemptuous look denouncing me as a "Roumie ben-el-Kilb." To my great surprise I managed to get out of the town unmolested, but it was principally owing to my keeping the head of my bernous on; it could only, therefore, be perceived that I was a Kaffer by my trowsers. I had to go through almost the whole of the old town; some of the streets through which I passed were nearly a mile in length; that in which the silk dealers have their shops dazzled the eyes by the variety and brilliancy of the gold embroidered articles in them.

The Fez manufactories of silks and embroidery are known all over the East. In all Mahomedan towns, each trade is confined to one particular street; that where the fruiterers have their shops being one of the largest. Fruit and vegetables are extremely abundant, and particularly reasonable; about fifty oranges can be procured for a silver coin, equivalent to twopence English. The bread made here is beautifully white, and Fez hot buns are exquisite. *Agua ardi-*

ente is the only thing difficult to be obtained here, the selling of it being strictly prohibited. A Jewess had been convicted some time before I came here of having sold this excommunicated article, and was whipped through the town, her hands tied behind her back, with a bottle slung round her neck, whilst the flogger every now and then called out, "This is the punishment inflicted on those who sell *agua ardiente*." Notwithstanding the dread of this *exposé*, there are still those who run the risk of it; but they are extremely cautious to whom they furnish it. The punishments inflicted here are often cruel, but when a breach of any established law is made, whether Mussulman or Jew, punishment is certain. The greatest rigour is observed with respect to any who attempt to deceive the public by short weights, the penalty for which is the loss of the right hand.

Having arrived outside the town, it was with feelings of the greatest satisfaction that I once more inhaled the pure air, so different from that I had been accustomed to for some days past. The renegade remained in Fez, and I did not wish to compromise myself by asking permission to take a Frenchman, as it would have given no favourable opinion to the Arabs of the sincerity

with which I wished them success in the war against the nation he belonged to. I had to wait near three hours before the caravan came out of town, it did not consist of above forty mules. It was so late in the afternoon when we commenced our journey, that we did not proceed above three leagues that night. We halted at an enclosure made of fallen timber, close to an Arab village; but as it was a station fixed by government, we had to pay sixpence per head for each animal. We crossed the river Seboo by a bridge three hundred yards long, and about twelve wide, the only thing of the kind worthy of the name which I have seen in Morocco.

On the 15th we halted at another village on the same river; the next morning we found that our muleteers had, from their frequent visits to Tetaun and Tangiers, taken a fancy for ardent spirits, notwithstanding that the use of them is so strictly prohibited by the laws of the Koran. They asked me for a little *agua ardiente*; the first I gave it to did it ample justice; amongst them they finished the bottle. It had, however, the good effect of enlivening the way, as they came on all the morning singing as merry as Spanish muleteers, and quite out of character with the usual gravity of

Moslem ones. We crossed the Worga, and remained at an Arab village on its banks for the night, proceeding before daylight in the morning. We had not, however, gone far before we discovered one of our mules was left behind. Two of the muleteers immediately went back to the village in search of it; the inhabitants denied, however, all knowledge of it, and two of them were summoned by the muleteers to come before the Kaid of the district to answer the charge of having kept it. The method of summoning used here is very simple. If there are two witnesses present, you have only to call upon the party accused to appear at such a time to answer the charge against him, and if he neglects to attend, judgment goes by default. Our muleteers coming up with the two Arabs, I informed them they stood indicted for purloining government property. This made great alteration in their chance of being able to maintain possession of the animal; they, therefore, now came to a compromise, stating, that for a dollar they would go back and bring it. The terms were accepted, and they accordingly went back for it, and we were obliged to go to the next village for the night, making only half a day's journey in consequence of this affair.

On the 18th we passed the town of Alcasar, and procured a fresh supply of provisions and *agua ardiente*. To-day, as I was walking a little a-head of the caravan, I saw a basket such as is usually worn by the pilgrims lying on the road ; being too lazy to pick it up, I called one of the black slaves belonging to the owner of the caravan. On examining it, the contents were found to be a quantity of copper coin to the amount of four or five dollars. Not wishing, however, to have anything to do with the money of the faithful, I gave it to the owner of the caravan, for the purpose of its being returned to its rightful owner should he ever become known.

On the 19th we passed the tomb of Zumarah-el-Asara. A great soto or market was being held there at the time ; not wishing to pass direct through such a mob as was assembled, I gave them a wide berth, taking a circuitous route which left the soto on our left hand. We remained this night at our old quarters at Zib-el-Felit. The next evening was ushered in by heavy rains and intense cold. The anticipated pleasure of reaching Tetaun the following day was some alleviation to this unpleasant travelling ; still it was not sufficient to keep us in good humour. The

rain fell in such torrents that it was impossible to follow on horseback the narrow path which ascends the Hamsal mountain, we were accordingly obliged to lead them. I kept my hands enveloped in my cloak to protect them from the cold ; however, this unsoldierlike action caused me a most sound roll in the mud ; my foot slipped, and I fell into a large pool on the road, and before I could extricate my hands I was made an elegant figure of. We arrived at the Fonduque in anything but an enviable predicament. However, a good fire and a few glasses of hot punch set all things to rights, and the following day the white walls of Tetaun came in sight at about ten A.M. ; but we did not reach it before the afternoon, and it was with no small degree of satisfaction that I had the pleasure of enjoying a night's comfortable lodging and a bed, to which I had been so long a stranger.

On the 26th I reached Gibraltar, having been absent from it eleven months.

APPENDIX.

THE TREATY OF TAAFNA.

1r, L'Emir Abd-el-Kader connoît l'exercice de l'autorité de la domination Française en Afrique.

2ième, La France conserve pour elle, dans l'Outhan, du pays d'Oran, Mozaganem, Mazagran avec tout leur territoire, Oran, Arzew avec les limites que nous indiquons ci-après, à l'est la Malka depuis les marais où elle sort ; au sud, tirez, à partir du marais susdit, une ligne droite au midi de la Sebka (lac salé), dirigée par Sidi Said jusqu'à l'oued Melah Rio Salada, et descendez avec cet oued jusqu'à la mer, de manière que tout le territoire qui est ci-dessus soit en possession des Français.

Dans l'Outhan du pays d'Alger ; Alger avec le Sahel, et la plaine de Metidga du côté de l'est, jusqu' à l'oued Kadra en avant, et du côté du sud jusqu'à la première crête de montagne, en s'éten-

dant vers l'oued Shifa. Dans ces lignes est renfermée Blida et tout son territoire. Du côté de l'ouest depuis la Schifa jusqu'au coude de l'oued Mazafran, et de là, une ligne droite jusqu'à la mer ; comprenant dans cette limite Koleia et tout son territoire, de manière que toutes les limites susdites soient en possession des Français.

3ième, L'Emir exerce l'autorité dans l'Outhan du pays d'Oran et de Médéah, dans la partie de la province d'Alger qui n'entre pas dans nos limites, et à l'ouest des limites mentionnées dans la deuxième condition. Il ne peut exercer l'autorité que dans les limites ci-dessus dites.

L'Emir administrera la province d'Oran, celle de Tittery, et la partie de celle d'Alger qui n'est pas comprise à l'ouest dans les limites indiquées dans l'article 2ième.

4ième, L'Emir ne pourra exercer d'autorité sur les Musulmans qui voudront demeurer dans les limites qui appartiennent aux Français, mais ceux qui préféreront aller vivre dans le pays sous la domination de l'Emir (le pourront), de même que ceux qui habitent le pays de l'Emir pourront, sans que rien les en empêcher, venir demeurer dans le pays, limites des Français.

5ième, Les Arabes qui habitent dans le pays

des Français suivront leur religion en toute liberté. Ils pourront bâtir des mosquées, et suivre les obligations de leur religion, sous la main de leur cadi le grand de l'Islamisme.

6ième, L'Emir donnera à l'armée Française trente mille mesures d'Oran de froment, trente mille mesures d'orge, et cinq mille bœufs. Cette livraison de grains, et de bœufs aura lieu à Oran par tiers. Le premier tiers sera livré après trois mois, à partir de la date de cette convention, avec délai de quinze jours, et les deux autres tiers seront livrés deux mois après, c'est à dire, tous les deux mois un tiers.

7ième, L'Emir achètera de France la poudre, le soufre et les armes dont il aura besoin.

8ième, Les Coulouges¹ qui voudront rester à Tlemecen, ou dans un autre lieu, jouiront en toute liberté de leurs propriétés, et ils seront traités comme seront traités les Kadars; ceux qui voudront aller dans le pays des Français pourront sans aucun empêchement vendre et affirmer leurs propriétés.

9ième, La France livrera à l'Emir Raschgoun et Tlemecen, avec le Méchouar et les canons anté-

¹ Coulouges signifies the inhabitants of Turkish origin.

rieurs dans le Méchouar ; l'Emir s'oblige à donner aide et faire parvenir à Oran tout le bagage, les vivres, la poudre et les armes des soldats Français qui sont à Tlemecen.

10ième, Le négoce et le commerce se feront en toute liberté entre les Français et les Arabes. Ils pourront aller de limites en limites dans le pays pour négocier et commercer.

11ième, Les Français seront inviolables et respectés chez les Arabes, comme les Arabes chez les Français ; les propriétés et les terres que les Français ont achetées, ou acheteront, dans le pays de l'Emir, ils en jouiront en toute liberté et garantie ; et l'Emir s'engage à les dédommager complètement toutes les fois que les Arabes causeront du dommage à ces propriétés.

12ième, Les coupables, c'est à dire, les meurtriers, les voleurs de grand chemin, ceux qui brûlent les propriétés, ou les autres, seront rendus des deux côtés.

13ième, L'Emir s'engage à ne livrer aucun port du pays à aucune nation sans le consentement de la France.

14ième, Le négoce et le commerce dans les provinces d'Alger et d'Oran ne se feront que dans les ports qui sont occupés par les Français.

15ième, La France pourra établir un oukil près de l'Emir, et des oukils dans les pays qui sont sous l'autorité de l'Emir, pour être ses médiateurs entre les sujets Français des contestations, ou autres, qui pourront exister avec les Arabes. Raschgoun, 24 Safar, 1253 ; Taafna, 30 Mai, 1837.

MONSIEUR,

Lorsque le Maréchal Vallée a succédé au gouvernement d'Alger, il a violé le traité qui existoit entre la nation Française et nous, sous plusieurs rapports. J'ai eu recours alors au ministère Français, et la réponse portée à mes justes plaintes fut que le Maréchal étoit en plein pouvoir d'agir selon que bon lui sembloit ; et ce ne fut que lorsque l'on fit passer par mon territoire des troupes sans ma permission, et munies de passeports portant être de moi, que je me vis dans la nécessité d'avoir recours aux armes pour défendre mes droits légitimes contre l'agression et mauvaise foi que tenoit le maréchal ; conduite indigne du représentant d'une grande nation.

Monsieur, ce fut avec la plus grande satisfaction

que j'appris la nouvelle de votre nomination au commandement de l'armée Française en Alger ; ayant une entière confiance dans l'honneur qui a toujours marqué vos procédés.

J'attendois avec impatience la venue de mon oukil Monsieur Mannucci, étant dans la confiance qu'il seroit le porteur de nouvelles de votre part ; et j'avois l'espoir que cette guerre, commencée contre l'injustice du Maréchal Vallée, seroit terminée par son éloignement du gouvernement. Par ce motif, et pour ne pas faire couler le sang inutilement d'un côté et autre, j'ai contenu l'ardeur de mon peuple qui ne désire que la guerre.

Quelle fut ma surprise lorsqu'il me fit savoir que vous exigiez que je mise bas les armes, les rendant aux Français pour première condition de la paix. Quoique cela devoit être seulement en apparence, vous ne devez pas ignorer que les loix de ma religion me défendent de rendre les armes aux Chrétiens ; et quand même je serois assez lâche pour acheter une paix honteuse par ce moyen, mon peuple l'auroit-il souffert ? Un peuple, qui est plutôt disposé à périr, les armes à la main, que de se soumettre à un joug étranger !

Non, Monsieur, je suis disposé à faire la paix avec vous sous les conditions que l'on me rend

les villes et le territoire, qui ont été occupés par les Français, et si la France se trouve disposé à me céder Constantine, et les terres qui appartiennent à la juridiction de cette ville. Je m'engage à payer la somme qui sera arrêtée entre nous, dans un temps convenu.

Monsieur, ma détermination est prise de défendre ma sainte religion et mes justes droits, jusqu'à la dernière goutte de mon sang ; mais je désire la paix sous des conditions honorables et assurées. A vous, Monsieur, il reste de décider à suivre une guerre acharnée, ou de rétablir la union amicale qui existoit anciennement entre nous.

Esmaila, 15e Sept. 1841.

THE END.





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